

lecture 13

- *recursive functions*
- *ipc (using a common file in the file system to pass messages)*
- *mmap (improving the shared file approach - segue to shared memory)*
- *C++ threads into*

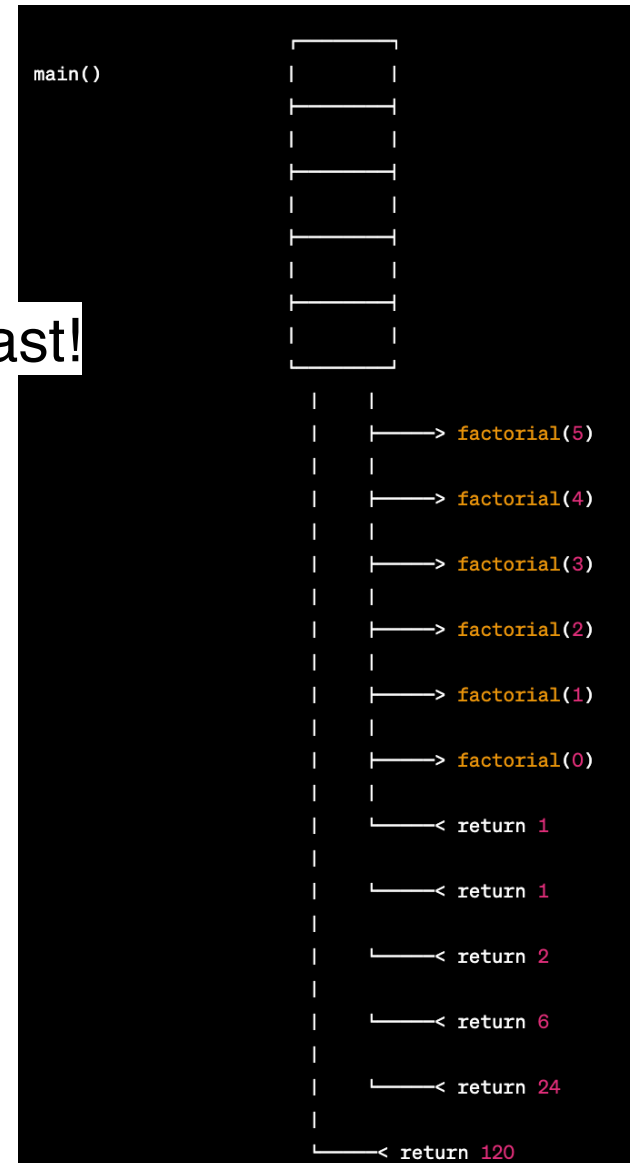
- recursive functions

```
#include <iostream>

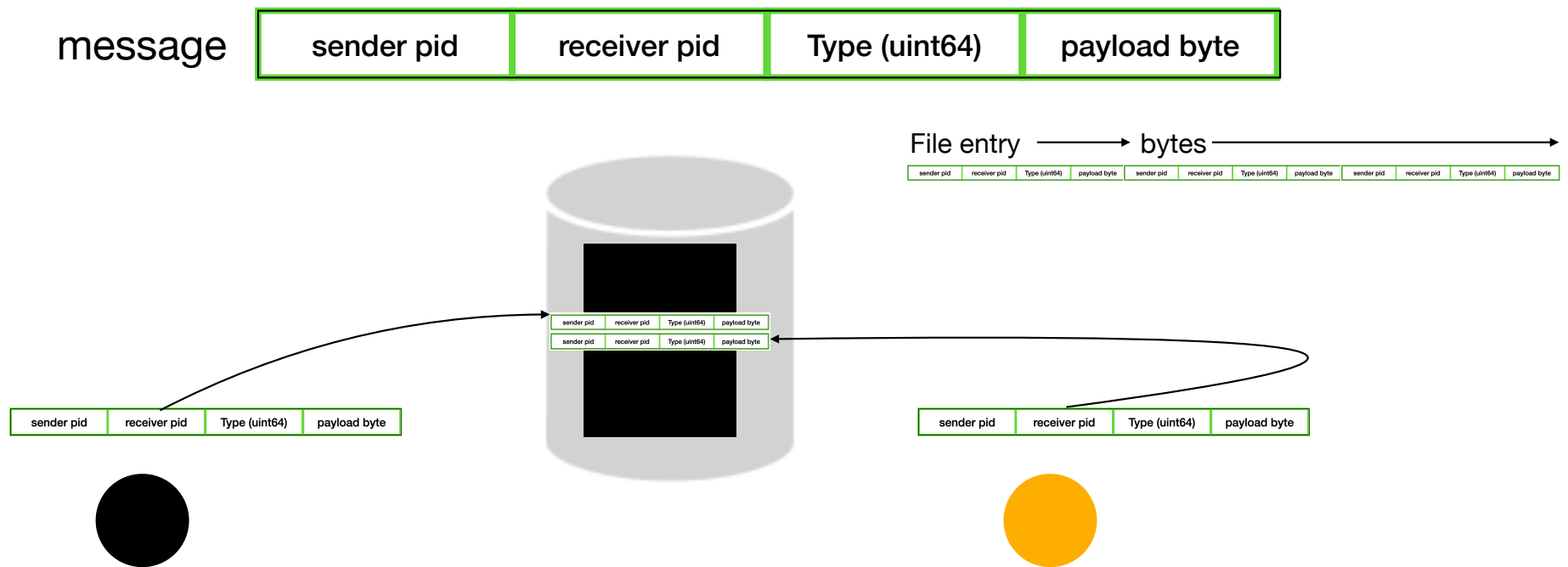
int factorial(int n) {
    if (n == 0) {
        return 1;
    } else {
        return n * factorial(n - 1);
    }
}

int main() {
    std::cout << factorial(5) << std::endl;
    return 0;
}
```

stack grows fast!



- *ipc (using a common file in the file system to pass messages)*



```
ssize_t write(int fd, const void *buf, size_t count);
```

- *ipc (using a common file in the file system to pass messages)*

send message := write

```
3 // send / recv example
4 #include <iostream>
5 #include <fstream>
6 #include <string>
7 #include <unistd.h>
8 #include <vector>
9 #include <fcntl.h>
10 #include <sys/file.h>
11 #include <sys/wait.h>
12
13 const std::string COMM_FILENAME = "comm_file.dat";
14
15 struct MessageHeader
16 {
17     pid_t sender;
18     pid_t receiver;
19     uint64_t size;
20 };
21
22 void send_message(pid_t my_pid, pid_t target_pid, const std::string &message)
23 {
24     // note I am using file descriptors here (integer file handles)
25     int fd = open(COMM_FILENAME.c_str(), O_WRONLY | O_APPEND);
26     if (fd == -1)
27     {
28         std::cerr << "Failed to open communication file for sending.\n";
29         return;
30     }
31
32     flock(fd, LOCK_EX); // Exclusive lock
33
34     MessageHeader header = {my_pid, target_pid, static_cast<uint64_t>(message.size())};
35     write(fd, &header, sizeof(header));
36     write(fd, message.data(), message.size());
37
38     flock(fd, LOCK_UN); // Unlock
39     close(fd);
40 }
```

- *ipc (using a common file in the file system to pass messages)*

receive message := read

```
42  std::vector<std::pair<pid_t, std::string>> receive_messages(pid_t my_pid)
43  {
44      std::vector<std::pair<pid_t, std::string>> inbox;
45
46      std::ifstream ifs(COMM_FILENAME, std::ios::binary);
47      if (!ifs)
48      {
49          std::cerr << "Failed to open communication file for receiving.\n";
50          return inbox;
51      }
52
53      while (ifs)
54      {
55          MessageHeader header;
56          ifs.read(reinterpret_cast<char *>(&header), sizeof(header));
57          if (!ifs)
58              break; // EOF or error
59
60          std::string payload(header.size, '\0');
61          ifs.read(&payload[0], header.size);
62
63          if (header.receiver == my_pid)
64          {
65              inbox.emplace_back(header.sender, payload);
66          }
67      }
68
69      ifs.close();
70      return inbox;
71  }
```

ipc (using a common file in the file system to pass messages)

Driver for ipc w/ file example

1	Parent	Clear communication file (truncate to empty).
2	Parent	Forks → new child process created.
3	Parent	Parent immediately sends a message to the child.
4	Child	Child waits 1 second (<code>sleep(1)</code>), then sends a message back.
5	Parent	Waits for child to finish (<code>waitpid</code>).
6	Parent and Child	Each reads messages for themselves.
7	Parent	Deletes the communication file after done.

```
85 int main()
86 {
87     pid_t my_pid = getpid();
88
89     // Clear communication file at start
90     std::ofstream ofs(COMM_FILENAME, std::ios::binary | std::ios::trunc);
91     ofs.close();
92
93     pid_t child_pid = fork();
94
95     if (child_pid == 0)
96     {
97         // Child process
98         pid_t child_pid = getpid();
99         sleep(1); // Let parent send first
100
101         send_message(child_pid, my_pid, "Hello from child!");
102
103         auto inbox = receive_messages(child_pid);
104         for (const auto &[sender, msg] : inbox)
105         {
106             std::cout << "Child received from PID " << sender << ": " << msg << "\n";
107             check_message(msg, "Hello from parent!");
108         }
109
110         _exit(0);
111     }
112     else
113     {
114         // Parent process
115         send_message(my_pid, child_pid, "Hello from parent!");
116
117         int status;
118         waitpid(child_pid, &status, 0); // wait for child
119         std::cout << "Child process finished.\n";
120
121         auto inbox = receive_messages(my_pid);
122         for (const auto &[sender, msg] : inbox)
123         {
124             std::cout << "Parent received from PID " << sender << ": " << msg << "\n";
125             check_message(msg, "Hello from child!");
126         }
127
128         unlink(COMM_FILENAME.c_str());
129     }
130     // Clean up communication file
131     remove(COMM_FILENAME.c_str());
132     return 0;
133 }
```

• *ipc (using a common file in the file system to pass messages)*

- First: a `MessageHeader` struct
 - 1000 (sender PID, 4 bytes)
 - 1001 (receiver PID, 4 bytes)
 - 17 (size, 8 bytes)
- Then: the payload
 - "Hello from parent!" (17 bytes)

The file now contains **this**:

Offset	Data	Size
0	Sender PID = 1000	4 bytes
4	Receiver PID = 1001	4 bytes
8	Payload size = 17	8 bytes
16	Payload = "Hello from parent!"	17 bytes



```
bash-3.2$ g++ -std=c++17 -o xfile-messages file-messages.cpp
bash-3.2$ ./xfile-messages
Child received from PID 91611: Hello from parent!
[✓] Message matches expected.
Child process finished.
Parent received from PID 91612: Hello from child!
[✓] Message matches expected.
bash-3.2$
```

```
void check_message(const std::string &actual, const std::string &expected)
{
    if (actual == expected)
    {
        std::cout << "[✓] Message matches expected.\n";
    }
    else
    {
        std::cout << "[✗] Message mismatch!\nExpected: " << expected << "\nActual: " << actual << "\n";
    }
}
```

- *ipc (using mmap in a file to pass messages as shared communication)*



```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
#include <string>
#include <cstring>
#include <fcntl.h>      // open
#include <sys/mman.h>    // mmap, munmap
#include <sys/stat.h>    // fstat
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <unistd.h>      // close, fork, getpid, sleep, unlink
#include <sys/wait.h>    // waitpid
#include <cassert>

const std::string COMM_FILENAME = "comm_mmap.dat";

struct MessageHeader
{
    pid_t sender;
    pid_t receiver;
    size_t size;
};
```


- *ipc (using mmap in a file to pass messages as shared communication)*

```
void *mmap(void *addr, size_t length, int prot, int flags, int fd, off_t offset);
```

Parameter	Meaning
<code>addr</code>	Hint address. Usually <code>nullptr</code> to let the system pick any free memory address.
<code>length</code>	Size (in bytes) of mapping (how much memory you want).
<code>prot</code>	Protection: read/write access (<code>PROT_READ</code> , <code>PROT_WRITE</code> , etc.).
<code>flags</code>	Sharing behavior: <code>MAP_SHARED</code> (changes are visible to others) or <code>MAP_PRIVATE</code> (copy-on-write).
<code>fd</code>	File descriptor of the file to map.
<code>offset</code>	Where to start mapping inside the file (typically 0 for full file).

the file is directly mapped into memory!

- Writing to `addr` updates the file.
- Reading from `addr` reads from the file.
- It's super fast and handled by the OS!

- *ipc (using mmap in a file to pass messages as shared communication)*

Writing (send_message)

- Open or create the communication file.
- Find **current size**.
- Expand the file with `ftruncate` .
- `mmap` the entire file for read/write.
- Jump to the **end** (`old_size` offset) and write:
 - `MessageHeader`
 - Then the payload (`message`)
- `munmap` the memory and close the file.

```

22 void send_message(pid_t sender, pid_t receiver, const std::string &message)
23 {
24     int fd = open(COMM_FILENAME.c_str(), O_RDWR | O_CREAT, 0666);
25     if (fd == -1)
26     {
27         perror("open");
28         exit(1);
29     }

    size_t msg_size = sizeof(MessageHeader) + message.size();

    // Find current file size (to append at end)
    struct stat st;
    fstat(fd, &st);
    size_t old_size = st.st_size;
    size_t new_size = old_size + msg_size;

    // Expand the file
    if (ftruncate(fd, new_size) == -1)
    {
        perror("ftruncate");
        exit(1);
    }

    // Map the new space
    void *addr = mmap(nullptr, new_size, PROT_READ | PROT_WRITE, MAP_SHARED, fd, 0);
    if (addr == MAP_FAILED)
    {
        perror("mmap");
        exit(1);
    }

    // Write the message at the old end
    char *write_ptr = static_cast<char *>(addr) + old_size;

    MessageHeader header{sender, receiver, message.size()};
    std::memcpy(write_ptr, &header, sizeof(header));
    std::memcpy(write_ptr + sizeof(header), message.data(), message.size());

    // Cleanup
    munmap(addr, new_size);
    close(fd);
}

```

void *memcpy(void *dest, const void *src, size_t count);	
Parameter	Meaning
dest	Destination address (where you want to copy to).
src	Source address (what you want to copy from).
count	Number of bytes to copy.

- *ipc (using mmap in a file to pass messages as shared communication)*

Reading (`receive_messages`)

- Open file for reading.
- Map entire file with `mmap`.
- Start from beginning and walk through the file:
 - Read a `MessageHeader`
 - Then read the payload.
- Only keep messages where `receiver == my_pid`.
- Clean up (`munmap` , `close`).

```

66 std::vector<std::pair<pid_t, std::string>> receive_messages(pid_t my_pid)
67 {
68     std::vector<std::pair<pid_t, std::string>> inbox;
69
70     int fd = open(COMM_FILENAME.c_str(), O_RDONLY);
71     if (fd == -1)
72     {
73         perror("open");
74         return inbox;
75     }
76
77     struct stat st;
78     fstat(fd, &st);
79     size_t file_size = st.st_size;
80     if (file_size == 0)
81     {
82         close(fd);
83         return inbox; // nothing to read
84     }
85
86     void *addr = mmap(nullptr, file_size, PROT_READ, MAP_SHARED, fd, 0);
87     if (addr == MAP_FAILED)
88     {
89         perror("mmap");
90         close(fd);
91         return inbox;
92     }
93
94     const char *read_ptr = static_cast<const char *>(addr);
95     const char *end_ptr = read_ptr + file_size;
96     while (read_ptr < end_ptr)
97     {
98         MessageHeader header;
99         std::memcpy(&header, read_ptr, sizeof(header));
100         read_ptr += sizeof(header);
101
102         std::string payload(header.size, '\0');
103         std::memcpy(&payload[0], read_ptr, header.size);
104         read_ptr += header.size;
105
106         if (header.receiver == my_pid)
107         {
108             inbox.emplace_back(header.sender, payload);
109         }
110     }
111
112     munmap(addr, file_size);
113     close(fd);
114     return inbox;
115 }

```

- *ipc (using mmap in a file to pass messages as shared communication)*

```
int stat(const char *path, struct stat *buf);
```

```
struct stat {
    dev_t      st_dev;      // ID of device containing file
    ino_t      st_ino;      // Inode number
    mode_t     st_mode;     // File type and mode (permissions)
    nlink_t    st_nlink;    // Number of hard links
    uid_t      st_uid;      // User ID of owner
    gid_t      st_gid;      // Group ID of owner
    dev_t      st_rdev;     // Device ID (if special file)
    off_t      st_size;     // Total size, in bytes
    blksize_t  st_blksize;  // Blocksize for filesystem I/O
    blkcnt_t   st_blocks;   // Number of 512B blocks allocated

    struct timespec st_atim; // Time of last access
    struct timespec st_mtim; // Time of last modification
    struct timespec st_ctim; // Time of last status change
};
```

```
66 std::vector<std::pair<pid_t, std::string>> receive_messages(pid_t my_pid)
67 {
68     std::vector<std::pair<pid_t, std::string>> inbox;
69
70     int fd = open(COMM_FILENAME.c_str(), O_RDONLY);
71     if (fd == -1)
72     {
73         perror("open");
74         return inbox;
75     }
76
77     struct stat st;
78     fstat(fd, &st);
79     size_t file_size = st.st_size;
80     if (file_size == 0)
81     {
82         close(fd);
83         return inbox; // nothing to read
84     }
85
86     void *addr = mmap(nullptr, file_size, PROT_READ, MAP_SHARED, fd, 0);
87     if (addr == MAP_FAILED)
88     {
89         perror("mmap");
90         close(fd);
91         return inbox;
92     }
93
94     const char *read_ptr = static_cast<const char *>(addr);
95     const char *end_ptr = read_ptr + file_size;
96     while (read_ptr < end_ptr)
97     {
98         MessageHeader header;
99         std::memcpy(&header, read_ptr, sizeof(header));
100         read_ptr += sizeof(header);
101
102         std::string payload(header.size, '\0');
103         std::memcpy(&payload[0], read_ptr, header.size);
104         read_ptr += header.size;
105
106         if (header.receiver == my_pid)
107         {
108             inbox.emplace_back(header.sender, payload);
109         }
110     }
111
112     munmap(addr, file_size);
113     close(fd);
114     return inbox;
115 }
```

- *ipc (using mmap in a file to pass messages as shared communication)*

```
[bash-3.2$ g++ -std=c++17 -o xmmmap-messaging kr-mmap-messaging.cpp
[bash-3.2$ ./xmmmap-messaging
Child received from PID 92301: Hello from parent!
Child process finished.
Parent received from PID 92306: Hello from child!
[bash-3.2$ ls *.dat
ls: *.dat: No such file or directory
bash-3.2$
```

```
117 void check_message(const std::string &received, const std::string &expected)
118 {
119     assert(received == expected);
120 }
121
122 int main()
123 {
124     pid_t my_pid = getpid();
125
126     // Clear communication file
127     int fd = open(COMM_FILENAME.c_str(), O_RDWR | O_CREAT | O_TRUNC, 0666);
128     close(fd);
129
130     pid_t child_pid = fork();
131
132     if (child_pid == 0)
133     {
134         // Child process
135         pid_t my_pid = getpid();
136         sleep(1); // Let parent send first
137
138         send_message(my_pid, getpid(), "Hello from child!");
139
140         auto inbox = receive_messages(my_pid);
141         for (const auto &[sender, msg] : inbox)
142         {
143             std::cout << "Child received from PID " << sender << ": " << msg << "\n";
144             check_message(msg, "Hello from parent!");
145         }
146
147         _exit(0);
148     }
149     else
150     {
151         // Parent process
152         send_message(my_pid, child_pid, "Hello from parent!");
153
154         int status;
155         waitpid(child_pid, &status, 0);
156
157         std::cout << "Child process finished.\n";
158
159         auto inbox = receive_messages(my_pid);
160         for (const auto &[sender, msg] : inbox)
161         {
162             std::cout << "Parent received from PID " << sender << ": " << msg << "\n";
163             check_message(msg, "Hello from child!");
164         }
165
166         unlink(COMM_FILENAME.c_str()); // Clean up
167     }
168
169     return 0;
170 }
```

```

#include <iostream>
#include <thread>

void threadFunc(int id)
{
    std::cout << "Thread " << id << " started." << std::endl;
    // Do some work...
    std::cout << "Thread " << id << " finished." << std::endl;
}

int main()
{
    const int numThreads = 4;
    std::thread threads[numThreads];

    // Spawn threads
    for (int i = 0; i < numThreads; ++i)
    {
        threads[i] = std::thread(threadFunc, i);
    }

    // Wait for threads to finish
    for (int i = 0; i < numThreads; ++i)
    {
        threads[i].join();
    }

    std::cout << "All threads finished." << std::endl;

    return 0;
}

```

- C++ threads

- OS allocates a new stack for each thread used to store local variables and function call frames
- threads share the same heap and code segment as main()
- dynamically allocated memory is visible to all threads
- when threads finish, the stack is deallocated by OS, and frees memory it allocated on the heap

- *C++ threads introduction*
 - *processing in shared memory and lightweight processes (threads)*

```

#include <iostream>
#include <thread>

void threadFunc(int id)
{
    std::cout << "Thread " << id << " started." << std::endl;
    // Do some work...
    std::cout << "Thread " << id << " finished." << std::endl;
}

```

```

int main()
{
    const int numThreads = 4;
    std::thread threads[numThreads];

    // Spawn threads
    for (int i = 0; i < numThreads; ++i)
    {
        threads[i] = std::thread(threadFunc, i);
    }

    // Wait for threads to finish
    for (int i = 0; i < numThreads; ++i)
    {
        threads[i].join();
    }

    std::cout << "All threads finished." << std::endl;

    return 0;
}

```

```

bash-3.2$ g++ -o xcpp-thread-into -std=c++14 cpp-thread-intro.cpp
bash-3.2$ ./xcpp-thread-into
Thread 0 started.Thread
Thread 1Thread 0Thread 2 started.
3 started.Thread 2 finished.

Thread 1 finished.
finished.
started.
Thread 3 finished.
All threads finished.
bash-3.2$

```


End Lecture 13