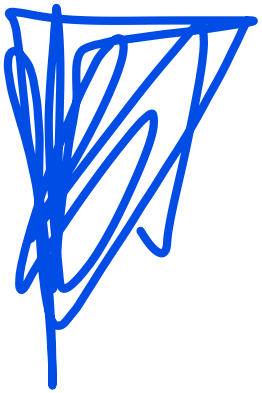

Operating Systems Lab (C+Unix)

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Outline

Environment variables

- Each process has an associated array of strings called the list of **environment variables**
- Environment variables enable the exchange of information between the program and the "environment"
- Env. variables are a way to pass parameters to the application
- Stored as name=value pair
- Example of environment variables are:
  - `HOME`: home directory
  - `LOGNAME`: user name
  - `PATH`: list of directories where executables are searched for
- The user can set environment variables by the command `export`

  ```
  export USERVAR=4
  ```

  The value of the variables is always a string
- they can be shown by the command

  ```
  printenv
  ```

Environment variables in C

- the list of environment variables can be accessed using the global variable

```
extern char ** environ;
```

- `environ` points to a NULL-terminated array of pointers to strings.
- the function

```
char * getenv(const char * name)
```

accessible by including

```
#include <stdlib.h>
```

returns the string of the variable `name`

test-env.c