

Advanced Programming

COMS 3157

April 18, 2025

Patrick Shen

pts2125@columbia.edu

1. Q1? (2 marks)
 - (a) What is a signal?
 - (b) What is a signal handler?
2. Do the `signal()` and `sigaction()` methods pause the flow of code? (1 mark)
3. How would each of these signals be triggered? (4 marks)
 - (a) SIGFPE
 - (b) SIGINT
 - (c) SIGTSTP
 - (d) SIGCONT
4. How would each of these signals be triggered? (4 marks)
5. Which two signals cannot be handled? (2 marks)
6. Briefly explain each argument in `sigaction(int signum, const struct sigaction *act, struct sigaction *oldact)` (3 marks)
 - (a) `int signum`
 - (b) `struct *act`
7. What do each field for in the `sigaction` struct? (4 marks)
 - (a) `void (*sa_handler)(int);`
 - (b) `void (*sa_sigaction)(int, siginfo_t *, void *);`
 - (c) `sigset_t sa_mask;`
 - (d) `int sa_flags;`

```
1  struct sigaction {
2      void      (*sa_handler)(int);
3      void      (*sa_sigaction)(int, siginfo_t *, void *);
4      sigset_t   sa_mask;
5      int       sa_flags;
```

```

6      void      (*sa_restorer)(void); // obsolete, ignore
7  };
8

```

Listing 1: sigaction struct

8. Briefly explain what each function does for sa_mask in the sigaction struct (3 marks)

- (a) int sigemptyset(sigset_t *set)
- (b) int sigaddset(sigset_t *set, int signum)
- (c) int sigfillset(sigset_t *set)

9. What does the function call memset() do here? (1 mark)

```

1      struct sigaction act;
2
3      memset (&act, '\0', sizeof(act));
4

```

Listing 2: memset()

10. What does act = {0} do here? (1 mark)

```

1      struct sigaction act;
2
3      act = {0};
4

```

Listing 3: act

11. Suppose a SIGTERM signal comes in. What is the output? (1 mark)

```

1      static void hd1 (int sig, siginfo_t *siginfo, void *context)
2      {
3          printf("SIGTERM receieved.");
4      }
5
6      ....
7
8      struct sigaction act;
9
10     memset (&act, '\0', sizeof(act));
11
12     act.sa_sigaction = &hd1;
13     act.sa_flags = SA_SIGINFO;
14
15     if (sigaction(SIGTERM, &act, NULL) < 0)
16     {
17         perror("sigaction");
18         return 1;
19     }

```

Listing 4: simple example

12. What do the following keywords in C do? (2 marks)

- (a) volatile
- (b) sig_atomic_t

```
1 volatile sig_atomic_t signal_val = 0;
```

Listing 5: keywords

13. What does the raise(int iSig) function do? (1 mark)

14. What does the kill(pid_t iPid, int iSig) function do? (1 mark)

15. What is the output for each of these commands? The code is stored in a executable named "sleep". (2 marks)

- (a) ./sleep 2 (Ctrl + C is not sent)
- (b) ./sleep 5 (Ctrl + C is sent 4 seconds in)

```
1 void catch_signal(int sig) {
2     got_signal = 1;
3 }
4
5 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
6     if (argc != 2) {
7         fprintf(stderr, "Usage: %s <seconds>\n", argv[0]);
8         return EXIT_FAILURE;
9     }
10
11     int max_snooze_secs = atoi(argv[1]);
12     if (max_snooze_secs <= 0) {
13         fprintf(stderr,
14             "Error: Invalid number of seconds '%s' for max snooze
time.\n",
15             argv[1]);
16         return EXIT_FAILURE;
17     }
18
19     struct sigaction action = {0};
20     action.sa_handler = catch_signal;
21     action.sa_flags = SA_RESTART;
22     if (sigaction(SIGINT, &action, NULL) == -1) {
23         perror("sigaction");
24         return EXIT_FAILURE;
25     }
26
27     int count = 0;
```

```
28     while (!got_signal && count < max_snooze_secs) {
29         sleep(1);
30         count++;
31     }
32     printf("Slept for %d of the %d seconds allowed.\n",
33         count, max_snooze_secs);
34
35     return EXIT_SUCCESS;
36 }
37
38
```

Listing 8: kill() example

16. Answer the following questions about the alarm(int time) function. (2 marks)
- (a) What does the alarm(int time) function do?
 - (b) What happens if the time argument is set to 0?