# **Exceptional Control Flow: Signals and Nonlocal Jumps**

**CSE4100: Multicore Programming** 

Sungyong Park (PhD)

Data-Intensive Computing and Systems Laboratory (DISCOS)

https://discos.sogang.ac.kr

Office: R908A, E-mail: <a href="mailto:parksy@sogang.ac.kr">parksy@sogang.ac.kr</a>

### ECF Exists at All Levels of a System

#### Exceptions

Hardware and operating system kernel software

#### Process Context Switch

Hardware timer and kernel software

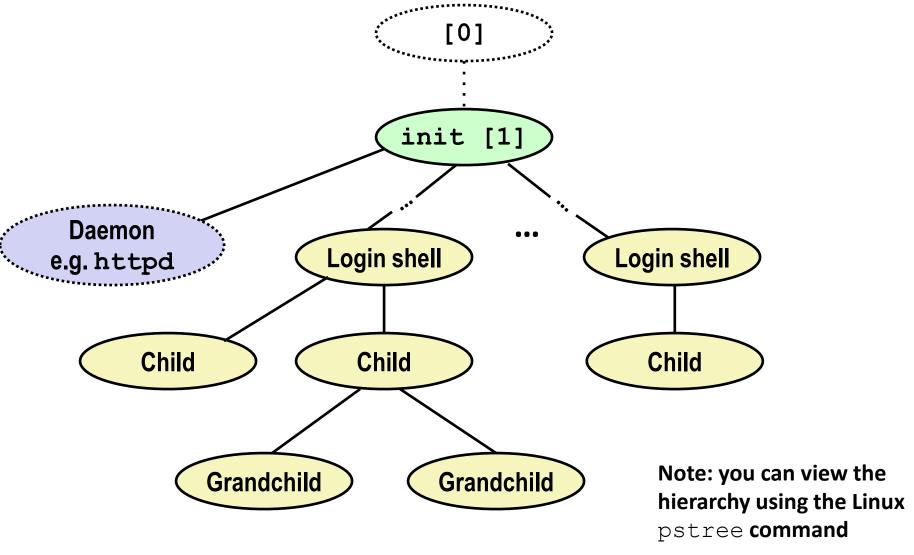
#### Signals

Kernel software and application software

#### Nonlocal jumps

Application code

#### **Linux Process Hierarchy**



# **Shell Programs**

 A shell is an application program that runs programs on behalf of the user

Sh
Original Unix shell (Stephen Bourne, AT&T Bell Labs, 1977)

csh/tcsh BSD Unix C shell

bash "Bourne-Again" Shell (default Linux shell)

#### Simple shell

- Described in the textbook
- Implementation of a very elementary shell
- Purpose
  - Understand what happens when you type commands
  - Understand use and operation of process control operations

### **Simple Shell Implementation**

#### Basic loop

- Read line from command line
- Execute the requested operation
  - Built-in command (only one implemented is quit)
  - Load and execute program from file

```
int main(int argc, char** argv)
{
    char cmdline[MAXLINE]; /* command line */
    while (1) {
        /* read */
        printf("> ");
        fgets(cmdline, MAXLINE, stdin);
        if (feof(stdin))
            exit(0);

        /* evaluate */
        eval(cmdline);
    }
    ...
    shellex.c
```

Execution is a sequence of read/evaluate steps

#### Simple Shell eval Function

```
void eval(char *cmdline)
   char *argv[MAXARGS]; /* Argument list execve() */
   char buf[MAXLINE]; /* Holds modified command line */
   int bg; /* Should the job run in bg or fg? */
   pid t pid;  /* Process id */
   strcpy(buf, cmdline);
   if (argv[0] == NULL) return; /* Ignore empty lines */
   if (!builtin command(argv)) {     /* If arg is a builtin command, run it here */
       if ((pid = fork()) == 0) { /* Child runs user job */
          if (execve(argv[0], argv, environ) < 0) {</pre>
              printf("%s: Command not found.\n", argv[0]); exit(0);
       /* Parent waits for foreground job to terminate */
       if (!bg) {
          int status;
          if (waitpid(pid, &status, 0) < 0) unix error("waitfg: waitpid error");</pre>
       else printf("%d %s", pid, cmdline);
   return:
int builtin command(char **argv)
   if (!strcmp(argv[0], "quit") exit(0);
   if (!strcmp(argv[0], ....) { .... }
                                                                    shellex.c
```

### **Problem with Simple Shell Example**

Our example shell correctly waits for and reaps foreground jobs

#### But what about background jobs?

- Will become zombies when they terminate
- Will never be reaped because shell (typically) will not terminate
- Will create a memory leak that could run the kernel out of memory

#### Solution: Exceptional control flow

- The kernel will interrupt regular processing to alert us when a background process completes
- In Unix, the alert mechanism is called a signal

# Signals

- A signal is a small message that notifies a process that an event of some type has occurred in the system
  - Similar to exceptions and interrupts
  - Sent from the kernel (sometimes at the request of another process) to a process
  - Signal type is identified by integer ID's (1-64): **kill** −**1** command
  - Only information in a signal is its ID and the fact that it arrived

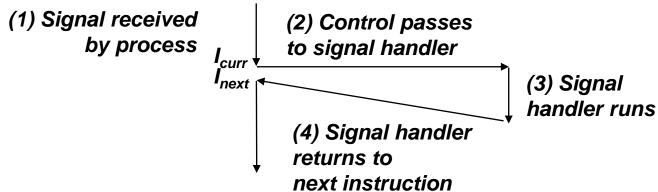
ID	Name	Default Action	Corresponding Event
2	SIGINT	Terminate	User typed ctrl-C
8	SIGFPE	Terminate & dump core	Floating-point exception (divide by 0)
9	SIGKILL	Terminate	Kill program (cannot override or ignore)
11	SIGSEGV	Terminate & dump core	Segmentation violation
14	SIGALRM	Terminate	Timer signal
17	SIGCHLD	Ignore	Child stopped or terminated

# Signal Concepts: Sending a Signal

- Kernel sends (delivers) a signal to a destination process by updating some state in the context of the destination process
- Kernel sends a signal for one of the following reasons:
  - Kernel has detected a system event such as divide-by-zero (SIGFPE) or the termination of a child process (SIGCHLD)
  - Another process has invoked the kill system call to explicitly request the kernel to send a signal to the destination process
    - kill -9 pid: send a SIGKILL (#9) signal to a process with pid

# Signal Concepts: Receiving a Signal

- A destination process receives a signal when it is forced by the kernel to react in some way to the delivery of the signal
- Some possible ways to react:
  - Ignore the signal (do nothing)
  - Terminate the process (with optional core dump)
  - Catch the signal by executing a user-level function called signal handler
    - Similar to a hardware exception handler being called in response to an asynchronous interrupt:



# Signal Concepts: Pending and Blocked Signals

#### ■ A process can *block* the receipt of certain signals

 Blocked signals can be delivered, but will not be received until the signal is unblocked

#### A signal is *pending* if sent but not yet received

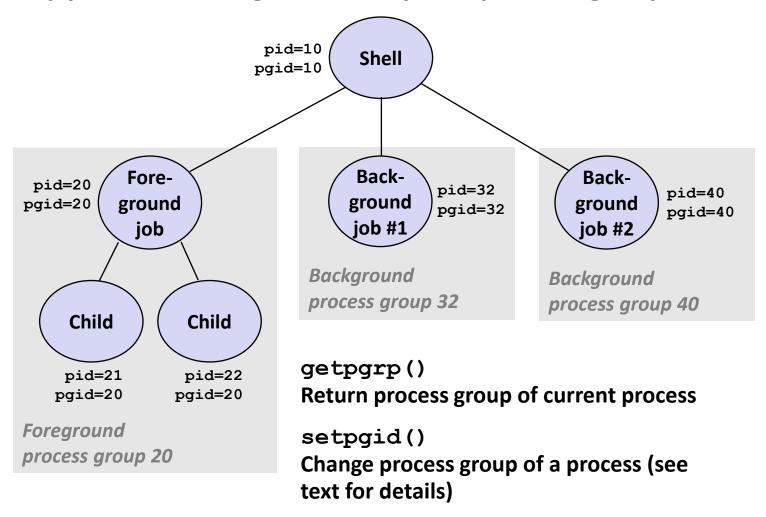
- Most common reason for a signal to be pending is that the process has currently blocked the signal
- Therefore, the blocked signals are also pending signals and they are delivered immediately upon unblock
- There can be at most one pending signal of any particular type
  - A pending signal is received at most once
- Important: Signals are not queued
  - If a process has a pending signal of type k, then subsequent signals of type k that are sent to that process are discarded

# **Signal Concepts: Pending/Blocked Bits**

- Kernel maintains pending and blocked bit vectors in the context of each process
  - pending: represents the set of pending signals
    - Kernel sets bit k in **pending** when a signal of type k is delivered
    - Kernel clears bit k in **pending** when a signal of type k is received
  - **blocked**: represents the set of blocked signals
    - Can be set and cleared by using the sigprocmask function
    - Also referred to as the signal mask.

#### **Sending Signals: Process Groups**

Every process belongs to exactly one process group



# Sending Signals with /bin/kill Program

/bin/kill program sends arbitrary signal to a process or process group

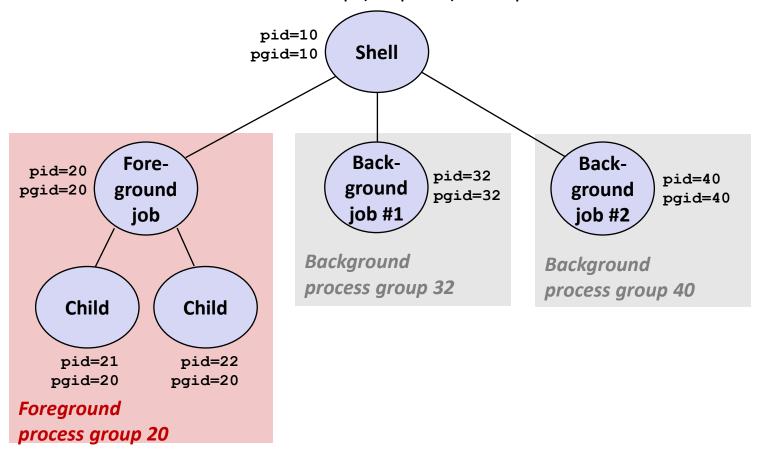
#### Examples

- /bin/kill -9 24818 Send SIGKILL to process 24818
- /bin/kill -9 -24817
  Send SIGKILL to every process
  in process group 24817

```
linux> ./forks 16
Child1: pid=24818 pgrp=24817
Child2: pid=24819 pgrp=24817
linux> ps
 PID TTY
                   TIME CMD
24788 pts/2
               00:00:00 tcsh
24818 pts/2
               00:00:02 forks
24819 pts/2
               00:00:02 forks
24820 pts/2
               00:00:00 ps
linux> /bin/kill -9 -24817
linux> ps
 PID TTY
                   TIME CMD
24788 pts/2
               00:00:00 tcsh
24823 pts/2
               00:00:00 ps
linux>
```

# Sending Signals from the Keyboard

- Typing ctrl-c (ctrl-z) causes the kernel to send a SIGINT (SIGTSTP) to every job in the foreground process group.
  - SIGINT default action is to terminate each process
  - SIGTSTP default action is to stop (suspend) each process



#### Example of ctrl-c and ctrl-z

```
bluefish> ./forks 17
Child: pid=28108 pgrp=28107
Parent: pid=28107 pgrp=28107
<types ctrl-z>
Suspended
bluefish> ps w
 PID TTY
              STAT
                    TIME COMMAND
27699 pts/8 Ss
                    0:00 -tcsh
28107 pts/8 T
                    0:01 ./forks 17
28108 pts/8
                    0:01 ./forks 17
                    0:00 ps w
28109 pts/8
            R+
bluefish> fq
./forks 17
<types ctrl-c>
bluefish> ps w
 PID TTY
              STAT
                    TIME COMMAND
27699 pts/8 Ss
                    0:00 -tcsh
28110 pts/8 R+
                     0:00 ps w
```

#### **STAT (process state) Legend:**

#### First letter:

S: sleeping

T: stopped

R: running

#### Second letter:

s: session leader

+: foreground proc group

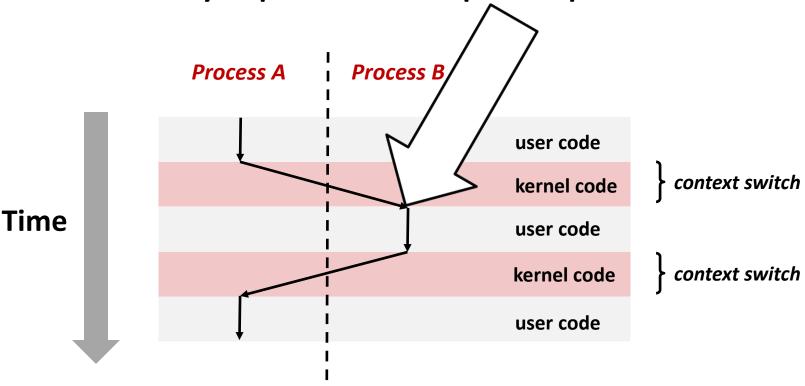
See "man ps" for more details

#### Sending Signals with kill Function

```
void fork12()
                                                             14-ecf-procs ./forks 12
  pid t pid[N];
                                                          Killing process 24526
  int i;
                                                          Killing process 24527
  int child status;
                                                          Killing process 24528
                                                          Killing process 24529
 for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
                                                          Killing process 24530
    if ((pid[i] = fork()) == 0) {
      /* Child: Infinite Loop */
                                                          Child 24527 terminated abnormally
      while(1)
                                                          Child 24530 terminated abnormally
                                                          Child 24529 terminated abnormally
                                                          Child 24528 terminated abnormally
                                                          Child 24526 terminated abnormally
  for (i = 0; i < N; i++) {
                                                          → 14-ecf-procs
    printf("Killing process %d\n", pid[i]);
    kill(pid[i], SIGINT);
 for (i = 0; i < N; i++) {
    pid t wpid = wait(&child status);
    if (WIFEXITED(child status))
      printf("Child %d terminated with exit status %d\n",
         wpid, WEXITSTATUS(child status));
    else
      printf("Child %d terminated abnormally\n", wpid);
                                                                                     forks.c
```

# **Receiving Signals**

 Suppose kernel is returning from an exception handler and is ready to pass control to process p



### **Receiving Signals**

- Suppose kernel is returning from an exception handler and is ready to pass control to process p
- Kernel computes pnb = pending & ~blocked
  - The set of pending nonblocked signals for process p
- If (pnb == 0)
  - Pass control to next instruction in the logical flow for p
- Else
  - Choose least nonzero bit k in pnb and force process p to receive signal k
  - The receipt of the signal triggers some action by p
  - Repeat for all nonzero k in pnb
  - Pass control to next instruction in logical flow for p

#### **Default Actions**

- Each signal type has a predefined default action, which is one of:
  - The process terminates
  - The process stops until restarted by a SIGCONT signal
  - The process ignores the signal

#### **Installing Signal Handlers**

- The signal function modifies the default action associated with the receipt of signal signum:
  - handler\_t \*signal(int signum, handler\_t \*handler)

#### Different values for handler:

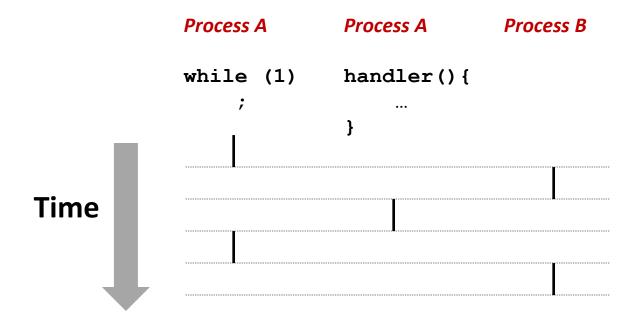
- SIG\_IGN: ignore signals of type signum
- SIG\_DFL: revert to the default action on receipt of signals of type signum
- Otherwise, handler is the address of a user-level signal handler
  - Called when process receives signal of type signum
  - Referred to as "installing" the handler
  - Executing handler is called "catching" or "handling" the signal
  - When the handler executes its return statement, control passes back to instruction in the control flow of the process that was interrupted by receipt of the signal

# Signal Handling Example

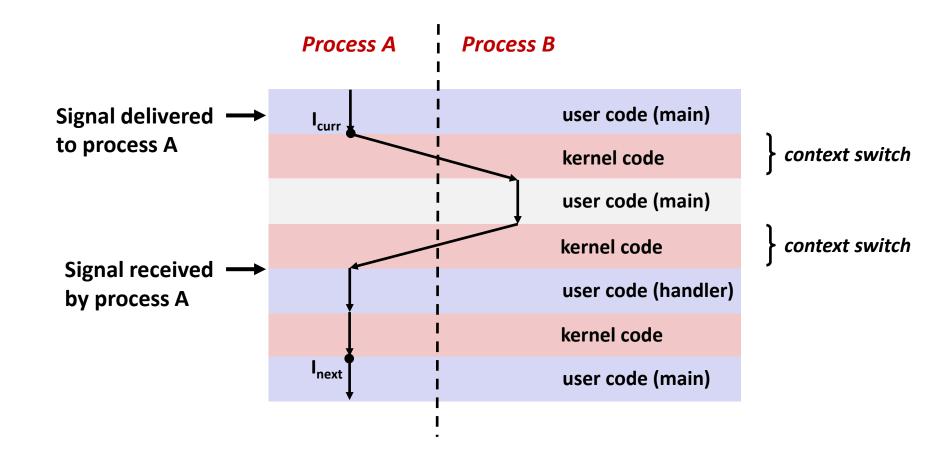
```
void sigint_handler(int sig) /* SIGINT handler */
  printf("So you think you can stop the bomb with ctrl-c, do you?\n");
  sleep(2);
  printf("Well...");
  fflush(stdout);
                                          ecf-signals ./sigint
  sleep(1);
                                      ^CSo you think you can stop the bomb with ctrl-c, do you?
  printf("OK. :-)\n");
                                      Well...OK. :-)
  exit(0);
                                          ecf-signals
int main()
  /* Install the SIGINT handler */
  if (signal(SIGINT, sigint handler) == SIG ERR)
    unix error("signal error");
  /* Wait for the receipt of a signal */
  pause();
  return 0;
                                                                                                 sigint.c
```

#### Signals Handlers as Concurrent Flows

A signal handler is a separate logical flow (not process)
 that runs concurrently with the main program

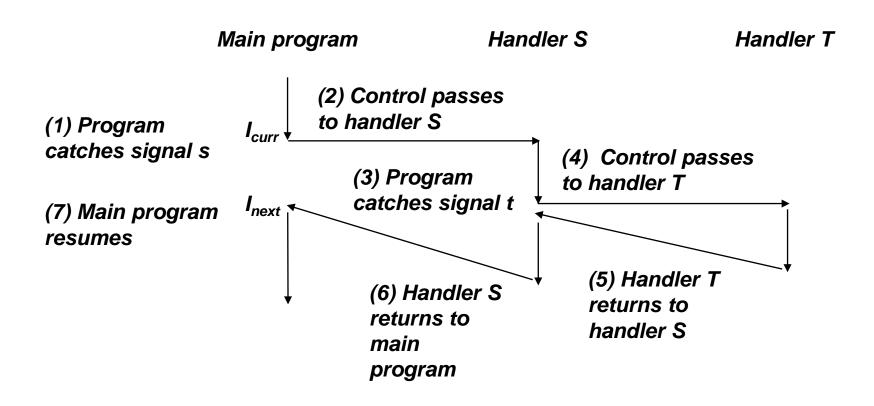


# **Another View of Signal Handlers as Concurrent Flows**



# **Nested Signal Handlers**

Handlers can be interrupted by other handlers



# **Blocking and Unblocking Signals**

#### Implicit blocking mechanism

- Kernel blocks any pending signals of type currently being handled.
- E.g., A SIGINT handler can't be interrupted by another SIGINT

#### Explicit blocking and unblocking mechanism

sigprocmask function

#### Supporting functions

- sigemptyset Create empty set
- sigfillset Add every signal number to set
- sigaddset Add signal number to set
- sigdelset Delete signal number from set

# **Temporarily Blocking Signals**

```
Sigemptyset(&mask);
Sigaddset(&mask, SIGINT);

/* Block SIGINT and save previous blocked set */
Sigprocmask(SIG_BLOCK, &mask, &prev_mask);

/* Code region that will not be interrupted by SIGINT */

/* Restore previous blocked set, unblocking SIGINT */
Sigprocmask(SIG_SETMASK, &prev_mask, NULL);
```

# Safe Signal Handling

- Handlers are tricky because they are concurrent with main program and share the same global data structures.
  - Shared data structures can become corrupted.
- We'll explore concurrency issues later in the term.
- For now here are some guidelines to help you avoid trouble.

# **Guidelines for Writing Safe Handlers**

- G0: Keep your handlers as simple as possible
  - e.g., Set a global flag and return
- G1: Call only async-signal-safe functions in your handlers
  - printf, sprintf, malloc, and exit are not safe!
- G2: Save and restore errno on entry and exit
  - So that other handlers don't overwrite your value of errno
- G3: Protect accesses to shared data structures by temporarily blocking all signals.
  - To prevent possible corruption
- G4: Declare global variables as volatile
  - To prevent compiler from storing them in a register
- G5: Declare global flags as volatile sig\_atomic\_t
  - flag: variable that is only read or written (e.g. flag = 1, not flag++)
  - Flag declared this way does not need to be protected like other globals

# **Async-Signal-Safety**

- Function is *async-signal-safe* if either reentrant or non-interruptible by signals.
- Posix guarantees 117 functions to be async-signal-safe
  - Popular functions on the list:
    - \_ exit, write, wait, waitpid, sleep, kill
  - Popular functions that are not on the list:
    - printf, sprintf, malloc, exit
    - Unfortunate fact: write is the only async-signal-safe output function

# **Safely Generating Formatted Output**

Use the reentrant SIO (Safe I/O library) from csapp.c in your handlers.

```
    ssize_t sio_puts(char s[]) /* Put string */
    ssize_t sio_putl(long v) /* Put long */
    void sio_error(char s[]) /* Put msg & exit */
```

```
void sigint_handler(int sig) /* Safe SIGINT handler */
{
    Sio_puts("So you think you can stop the bomb with ctrl-c, do you?\n");
    sleep(2);
    Sio_puts("Well...");
    sleep(1);
    Sio_puts("OK. :-)\n");
    _exit(0);
}

void sio_error(char s[]) /* Put error message and exit */
    sio_puts(s);
    _exit(1);
}

sigintsafe.c
```

#### int ccount = 0; void child\_handler(int sig) { int olderrno = errno: pid t pid; if ((pid = wait(NULL)) < 0)</pre> Sio error("wait error"); ccount--; Sio\_puts("Handler reaped child "); Sio\_putl((long)pid); Sio puts("\n"); sleep(1); errno = olderrno; void fork14() { pid\_t pid[N]; int i; ccount = N; Signal(SIGCHLD, child handler); for (i = 0; i < N; i++)if ((pid[i] = Fork()) == 0) { Sleep(1); exit(0); /\* Child exits \*/ while (ccount > 0) /\* Parent spins \*/

### **Correct Signal Handling**

- Pending signals are not queued
  - For each signal type, one bit indicates whether or not signal is pending...
  - ...thus at most one pending signal of any particular type.
- You can't use signals to count events, such as children terminating.

```
ecf-signals> ./forks 14
Handler reaped child 23240
Handler reaped child 23241
ecf-signals>
```

### **Correct Signal Handling**

- Must wait for all terminated child processes
  - Put wait in a loop to reap all terminated children

```
void child_handler2(int sig)
 int olderrno = errno;
  pid t pid;
  while ((pid = wait(NULL)) > 0) {
    ccount--;
    Sio puts("Handler reaped child");
    Sio_putl((long)pid);
    Sio puts("\n");
 if (errno != ECHILD)
    Sio error("wait error");
  errno = olderrno;
                                          ecf-signals> ./forks 15
                                          Handler reaped child 23246
                                          Handler reaped child 23247
                                          Handler reaped child 23248
                                          Handler reaped child 23249
                                          Handler reaped child 23250
                                          ecf-signals>
```

# **Portable Signal Handling**

- Ugh! Different versions of Unix can have different signal handling semantics
  - Some older systems restore action to default after catching signal
  - Some interrupted system calls can return with errno == EINTR
  - Some systems don't block signals of the type being handled
- Solution: sigaction

```
handler_t *Signal(int signum, handler_t *handler)
{
    struct sigaction action, old_action;

    action.sa_handler = handler;
    sigemptyset(&action.sa_mask); /* Block sigs of type being handled */
    action.sa_flags = SA_RESTART; /* Restart syscalls if possible */

    if (sigaction(signum, &action, &old_action) < 0)
        unix_error("Signal error");
    return (old_action.sa_handler);
}

    csapp.c</pre>
```

#### **Synchronizing Flows to Avoid Races**

Simple shell with a subtle synchronization error because it assumes parent runs before child.

```
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
  int pid;
  sigset t mask all, prev all;
  Sigfillset(&mask all);
  Signal(SIGCHLD, handler);
  initjobs(); /* Initialize the job list */
  while (1) {
    if ((pid = Fork()) == 0) { /* Child */
      Execve("/bin/date", argv, NULL);
    Sigprocmask(SIG BLOCK, &mask all, &prev all); /* Parent */
    addjob(pid); /* Add the child to the job list */
    Sigprocmask(SIG SETMASK, &prev all, NULL);
  exit(0);
                                                                                     procmask1.c
```

### **Synchronizing Flows to Avoid Races**

SIGCHLD handler for a simple shell

```
void handler(int sig)
  int olderrno = errno;
  sigset_t mask_all, prev_all;
  pid t pid;
  Sigfillset(&mask all);
  while ((pid = waitpid(-1, NULL, 0)) > 0) { /* Reap child */
    Sigprocmask(SIG_BLOCK, &mask_all, &prev_all);
    deletejob(pid); /* Delete the child from the job list */
    Sigprocmask(SIG SETMASK, &prev all, NULL);
  if (errno != ECHILD)
    Sio error("waitpid error");
  errno = olderrno;
```

### **Corrected Shell Program without Race**

```
int main(int argc, char **argv)
  int pid;
  sigset_t mask_all, mask_one, prev_one;
  Sigfillset(&mask all);
  Sigemptyset(&mask one);
  Sigaddset(&mask one, SIGCHLD);
  Signal(SIGCHLD, handler);
  initjobs(); /* Initialize the job list */
  while (1) {
    Sigprocmask(SIG BLOCK, &mask one, &prev one); /* Block SIGCHLD */
    if ((pid = Fork()) == 0) { /* Child process */
      Sigprocmask(SIG SETMASK, &prev one, NULL); /* Unblock SIGCHLD */
      Execve("/bin/date", argv, NULL);
    Sigprocmask(SIG BLOCK, &mask all, NULL); /* Parent process */
           addjob(pid); /* Add the child to the job list */
    Sigprocmask(SIG SETMASK, &prev one, NULL); /* Unblock SIGCHLD */
  exit(0);
                                                                                             procmask2.c
```

## **Explicitly Waiting for Signals**

Handlers for program explicitly waiting for SIGCHLD to arrive.

```
volatile sig_atomic_t pid;

void sigchld_handler(int s)
{
  int olderrno = errno;
  pid = Waitpid(-1, NULL, 0); /* Main is waiting for nonzero pid */
  errno = olderrno;
}

void sigint_handler(int s)
{
}

waitforsignal.c
```

## **Explicitly Waiting for Signals**

```
Similar to a shell waiting
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
                                                                     for a foreground job to
  sigset t mask, prev;
                                                                     terminate.
  Signal(SIGCHLD, sigchld_handler);
  Signal(SIGINT, sigint handler);
  Sigemptyset(&mask);
  Sigaddset(&mask, SIGCHLD);
  while (1) {
           Sigprocmask(SIG BLOCK, &mask, &prev); /* Block SIGCHLD */
           if (Fork() == 0) /* Child */
      exit(0);
           /* Parent */
           pid = 0;
           Sigprocmask(SIG_SETMASK, &prev, NULL); /* Unblock SIGCHLD */
           /* Wait for SIGCHLD to be received (wasteful!) */
           while (!pid)
           /* Do some work after receiving SIGCHLD */
    printf(".");
  exit(0);
                                                                                waitforsignal.c
```

## **Explicitly Waiting for Signals**

```
while (!pid)
;
```

- Program is correct, but very wasteful
  - Program in busy-wait loop

```
while (!pid) /* Race! */
  pause();
```

- Possible race condition
  - Between checking pid and starting pause, might receive signal

```
while (!pid) /* Too slow! */
    sleep(1);
```

- Safe, but slow
  - Will take up to one second to respond
- Solution: sigsuspend

## Waiting for Signals with sigsuspend

- int sigsuspend(const sigset\_t \*mask)
- Equivalent to atomic (uninterruptable) version of:

```
sigprocmask(SIG_BLOCK, &mask, &prev);
pause();
sigprocmask(SIG_SETMASK, &prev, NULL);
```

## Waiting for Signals with sigsuspend

```
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    sigset t mask, prev;
    Signal(SIGCHLD, sigchld handler);
    Signal(SIGINT, sigint handler);
    Sigemptyset(&mask);
    Sigaddset(&mask, SIGCHLD);
   while (1) {
        Sigprocmask(SIG BLOCK, &mask, &prev); /* Block SIGCHLD */
        if (Fork() == 0) /* Child */
            exit(0);
       /* Wait for SIGCHLD to be received */
       pid = 0;
        while (!pid)
            Sigsuspend(&prev);
       /* Optionally unblock SIGCHLD */
        Sigprocmask(SIG SETMASK, &prev, NULL);
        /* Do some work after receiving SIGCHLD */
        printf(".");
   exit(0);
                                                                sigsuspend.c
```

## Nonlocal Jumps: setjmp/longjmp

- Powerful (but dangerous) user-level mechanism for transferring control to an arbitrary location
  - Controlled to way to break the procedure call / return discipline
  - Useful for error recovery and signal handling
- int setjmp(jmp\_buf j)
  - Must be called before longjmp
  - Identifies a return site for a subsequent longjmp
  - Called once, returns one or more times

#### Implementation:

- Remember where you are by storing the current register context, stack pointer, and PC value in jmp buf
- Return 0

## setjmp/longjmp (cont)

- void longjmp(jmp\_buf j, int i)
  - Meaning:
    - return from the setjmp remembered by jump buffer j again...
    - ... this time returning i instead of 0
  - Called after setjmp
  - Called once, but never returns

#### longjmp Implementation:

- Restore register context (stack pointer, base pointer, PC value)
   from jump buffer j
- Set %eax (the return value) to i
- Jump to the location indicated by the PC stored in jump buf j

## setjmp/longjmp Example

 Goal: return directly to original caller from a deeplynested function

```
/* Deeply nested function foo */
void foo(void)
{
    if (error1)
        longjmp(buf, 1);
    bar();
}

void bar(void)
{
    if (error2)
        longjmp(buf, 2);
}
```

```
jmp_buf buf;
int error1 = 0;
int error2 = 1;
void foo(void), bar(void);
int main()
  switch(setjmp(buf)) {
  case 0:
    foo();
    break;
  case 1:
    printf("Detected an error1 condition in foo\n");
    break;
  case 2:
    printf("Detected an error2 condition in foo\n");
    break:
  default:
    printf("Unknown error condition in foo\n");
  exit(0);
```

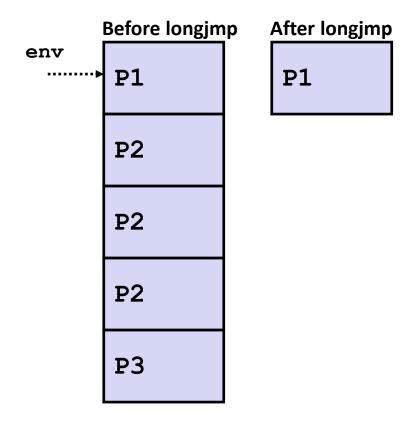
# setjmp/longjmp Example (cont)

## **Limitations of Nonlocal Jumps**

#### Works within stack discipline

 Can only long jump to environment of function that has been called but not yet completed

```
jmp buf env;
P1()
  if (setjmp(env)) {
    /* Long Jump to here */
  } else {
    P2();
P2()
{ . . . P2(); . . . P3(); }
P3()
  longjmp(env, 1);
```



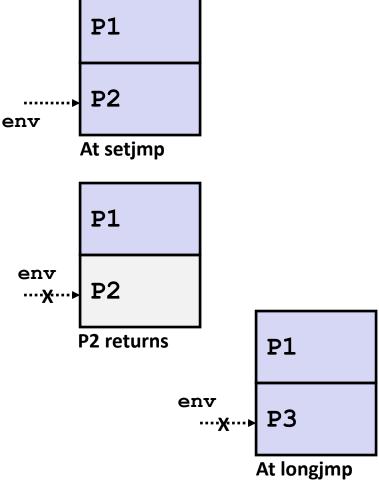
## **Limitations of Long Jumps (cont.)**

#### Works within stack discipline

Can only long jump to environment of function that has been called

but not yet completed

```
jmp buf env;
P1()
  P2(); P3();
}
P2()
{
   if (setjmp(env)) {
    /* Long Jump to here */
}
P3()
  longjmp(env, 1);
}
```



## Putting It All Together: A Program That Restarts Itself When ctrl-c'd

```
#include "csapp.h"
sigjmp buf buf;
void handler(int sig)
  siglongjmp(buf, 1);
int main()
  if (!sigsetimp(buf, 1)) {
     Signal(SIGINT, handler);
     Sio puts("starting\n");
  else
     Sio puts("restarting\n");
  while(1) {
     Sleep(1);
     Sio puts("processing...\n");
  exit(0); /* Control never reaches here */
```

restart.c

## **Summary**

- Signals provide process-level exception handling
  - Can generate from user programs
  - Can define effect by declaring signal handler
  - Be very careful when writing signal handlers
- Nonlocal jumps provide exceptional control flow within process
  - Within constraints of stack discipline