Processes

CSE 351 Autumn 2018

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REFRESH TYPE	EXAMPLE SHORTCUTS	EFFECT
SOFT REFRESH	GMAIL [REFRESH] BUTTON	REQUESTS UPDATE WITHIN JAVASCRIPT
NORMAL REFRESH	F5, CTRL-R, ⌘R	REFRESHES PAGE
HARD REFRESH	CTRL-F5, CTRL-⇧, ⌘⇧R	REFRESHES PAGE INCLUDING CACHED FILES
HARDER REFRESH	CTRL-⇧-HYPER-ESC-R-F5	REMOTELY CYCLES POWER TO DATACENTER
HARDEST REFRESH	CTRL-⌘⊞⇧#-R-F5-F-5-ESC-O-0-Ø-⏏-SCROLL LOCK	INTERNET STARTS OVER FROM ARPANET

http://xkcd.com/1854/

Administrivia

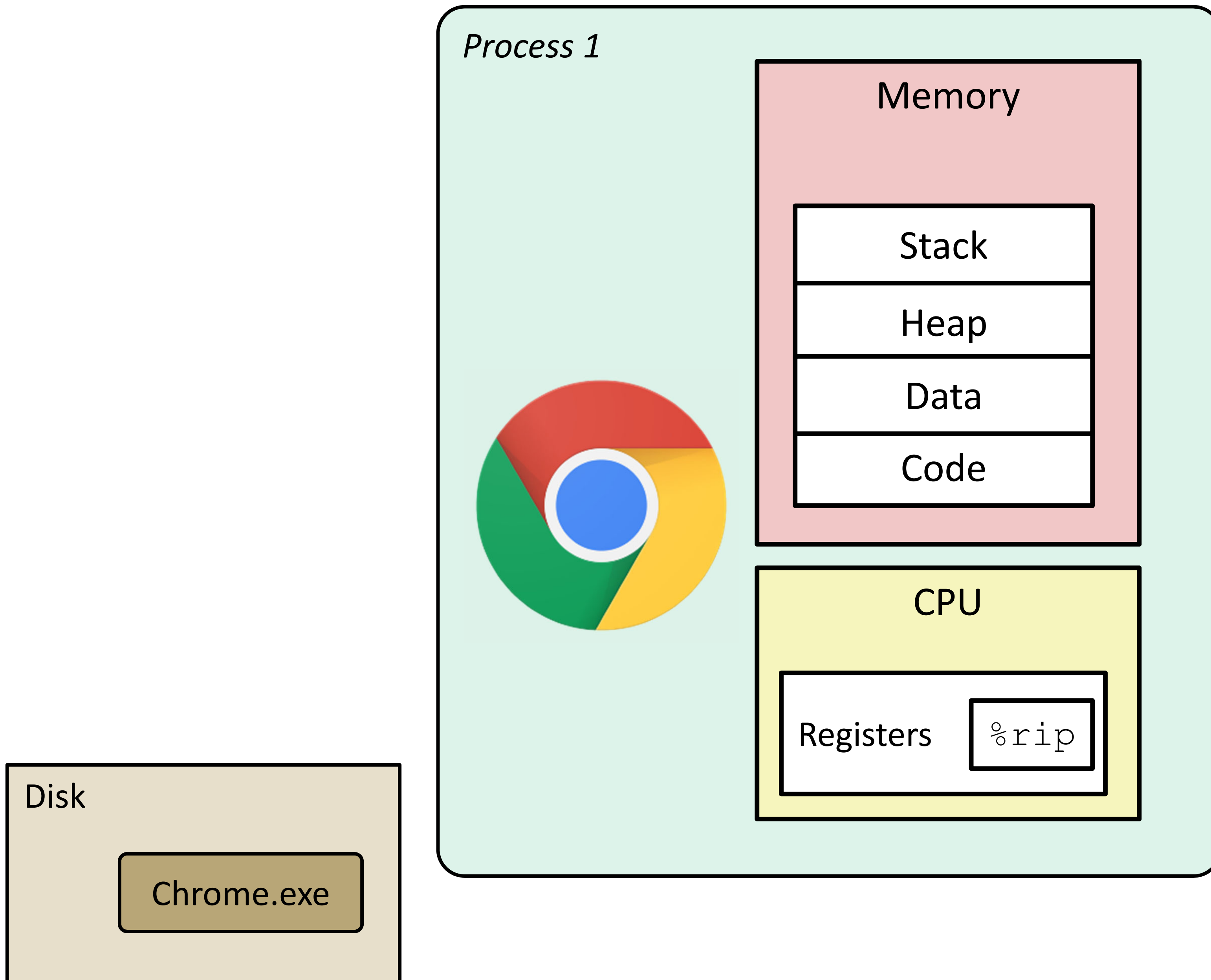
- Homework 4 due Friday (11/16)
- Lab 4 due after Thanksgiving (11/26)

Processes

- **Processes and context switching**
- Creating new processes
  - `fork()`, `exec*()`, and `wait()`
- Zombies

What is a process?

It's an *illusion*!



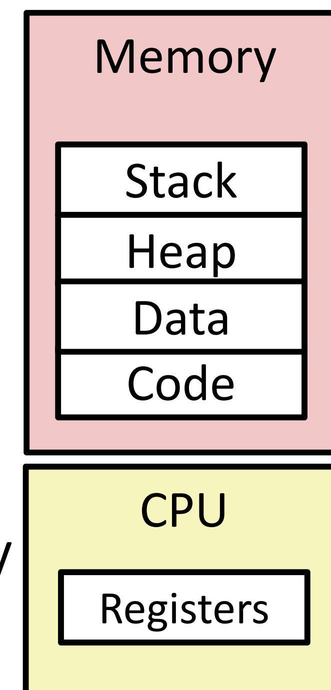
What is a process?

- Another *abstraction* in our computer system
  - Provided by the OS
  - OS uses a data structure to represent each process (handwritten: → process control block (PCB))
  - Maintains the ***interface*** between the program and the underlying hardware (CPU + memory)
- What do *processes* have to do with *exceptional control flow*?
  - Exceptional control flow is the *mechanism* the OS uses to enable **multiple processes** to run on the same system
- What is the difference between:
  - A processor? A program? A process?

    (handwritten: hardware — the "blueprint" — an instance)

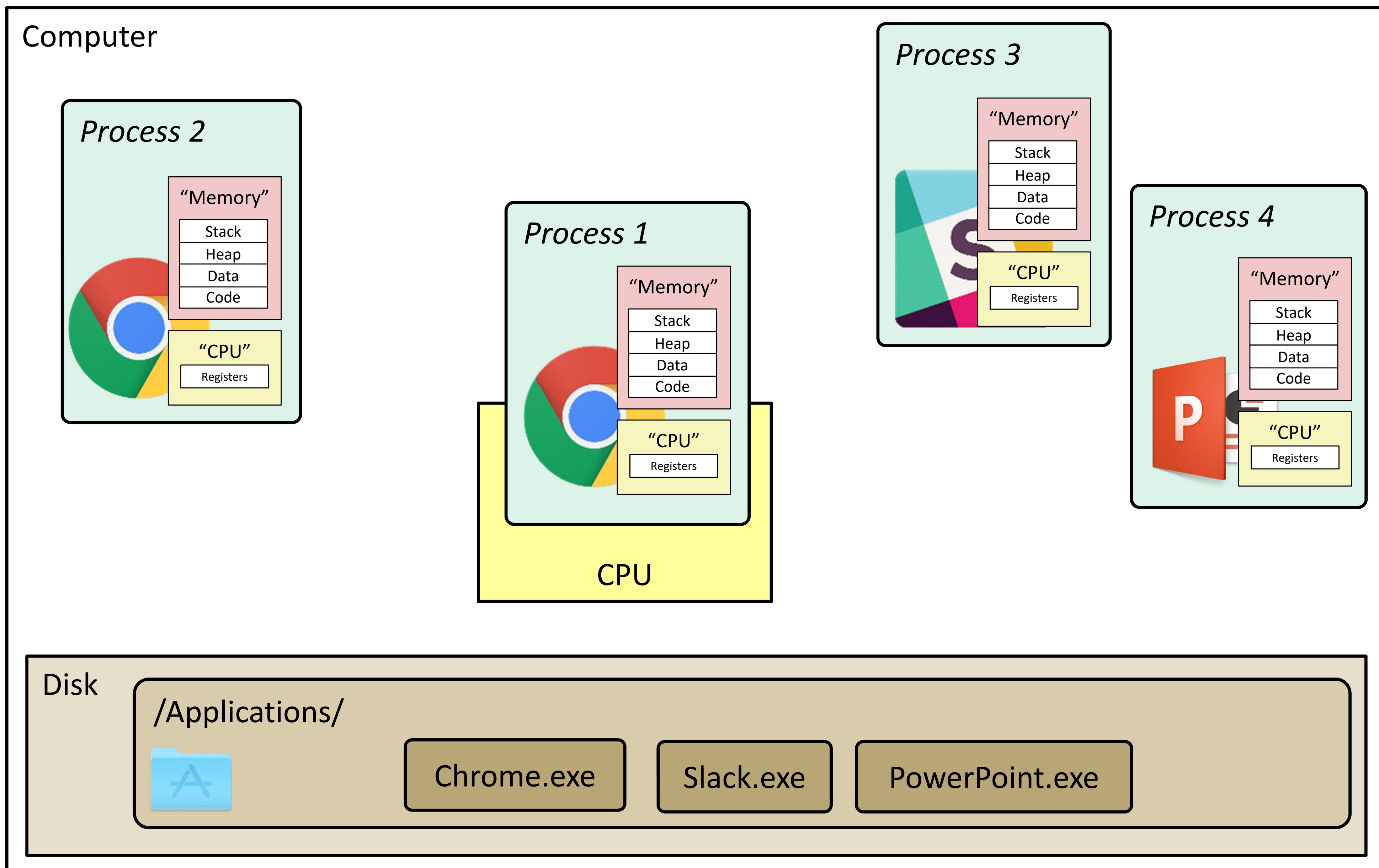
Processes

- A ***process*** is an instance of a running program
  - One of the most profound ideas in computer science
  - Not the same as "program" or "processor"
- Process provides each program with two key abstractions:
  - *Logical control flow*
    - Each program seems to have exclusive use of the CPU
    - Provided by kernel mechanism called ***context switching***
  - *Private address space*
    - Each program seems to have exclusive use of main memory
    - Provided by kernel mechanism called ***virtual memory***



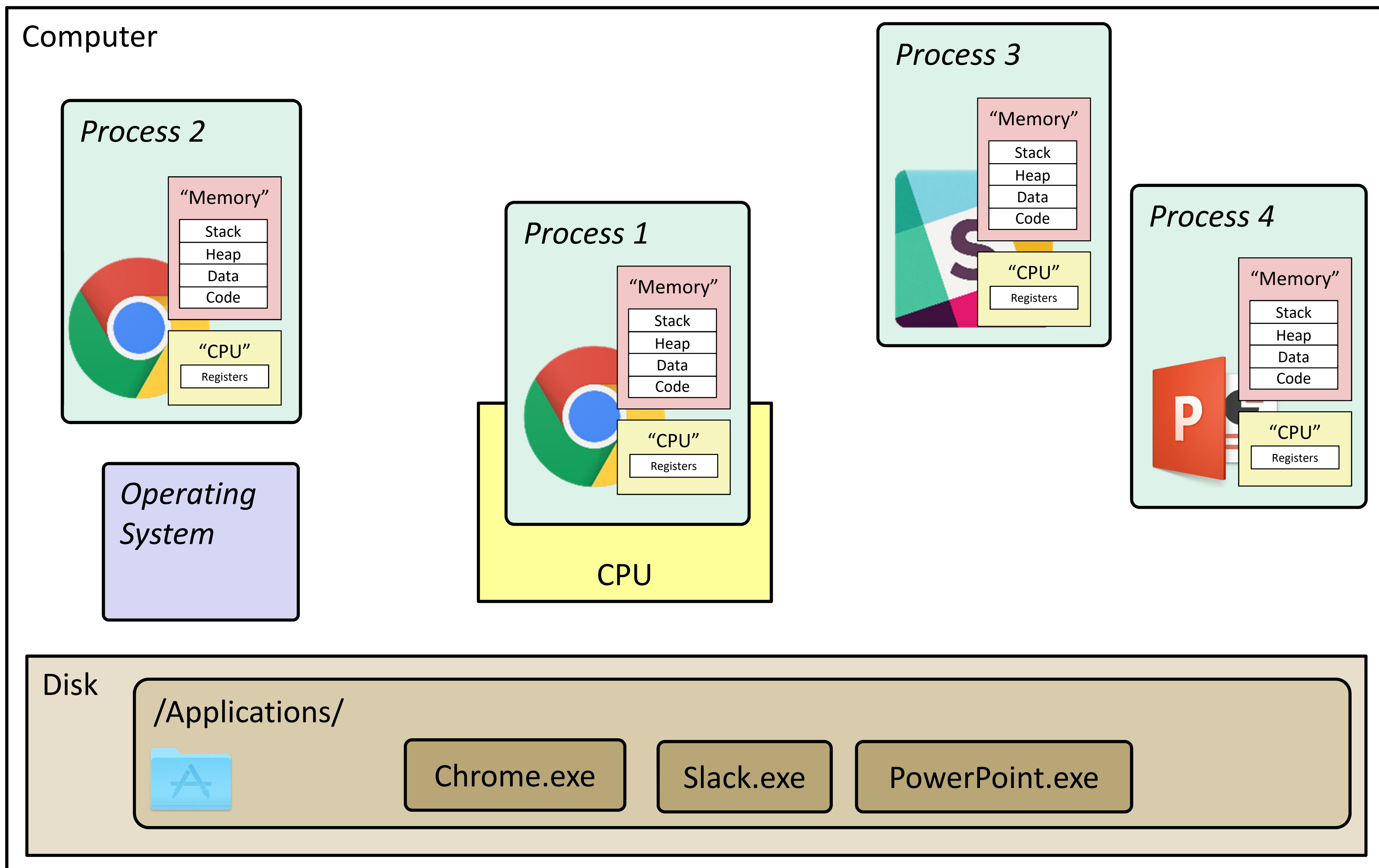
What is a process?

It's an *illusion*!

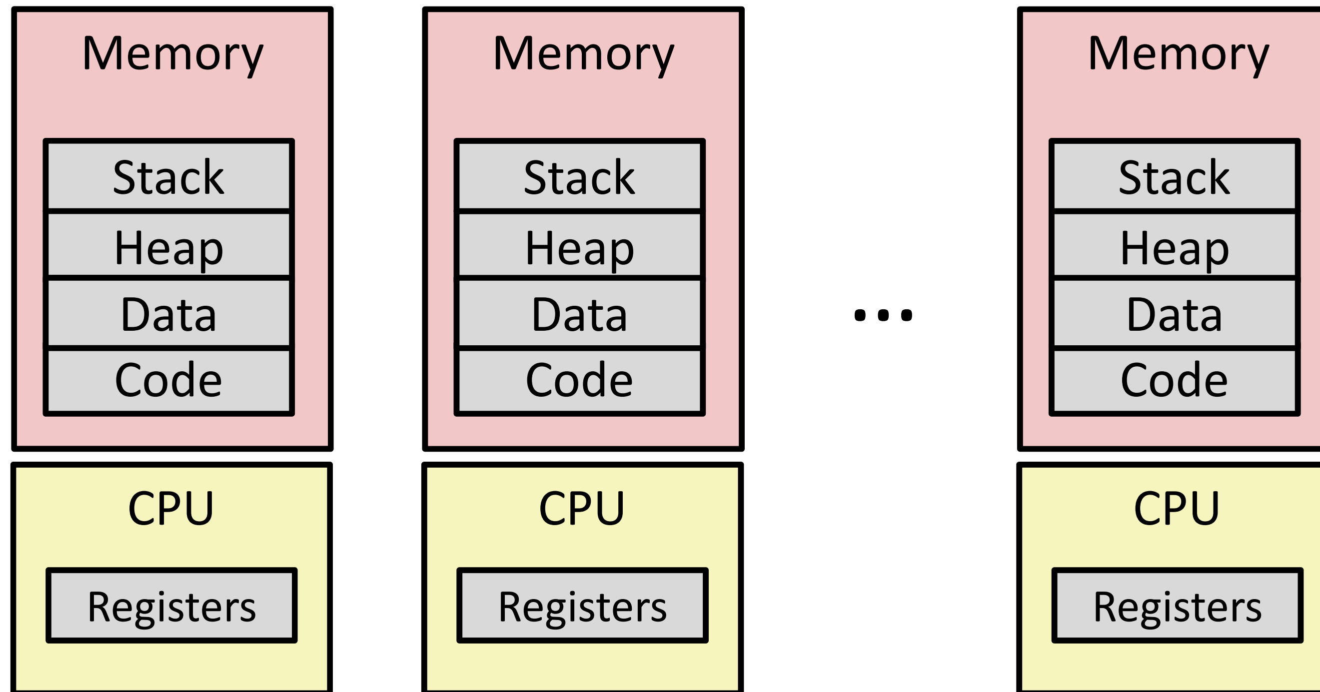


What is a process?

It's an *illusion*!



Multiprocessing: The Illusion

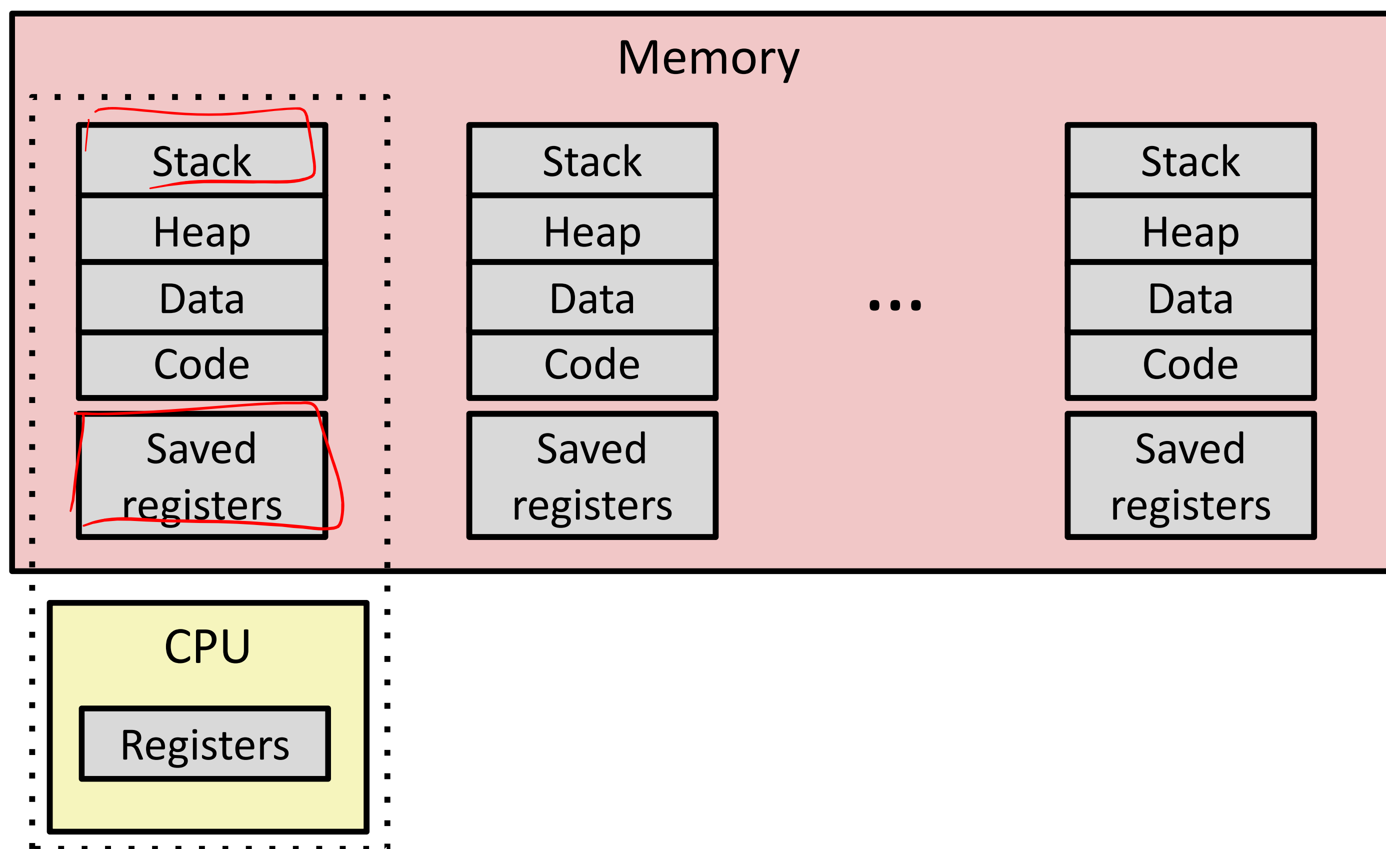


- Computer runs many processes simultaneously
  - Applications for one or more users
    - Web browsers, email clients, editors, …
  - Background tasks
    - Monitoring network & I/O devices

} user-level

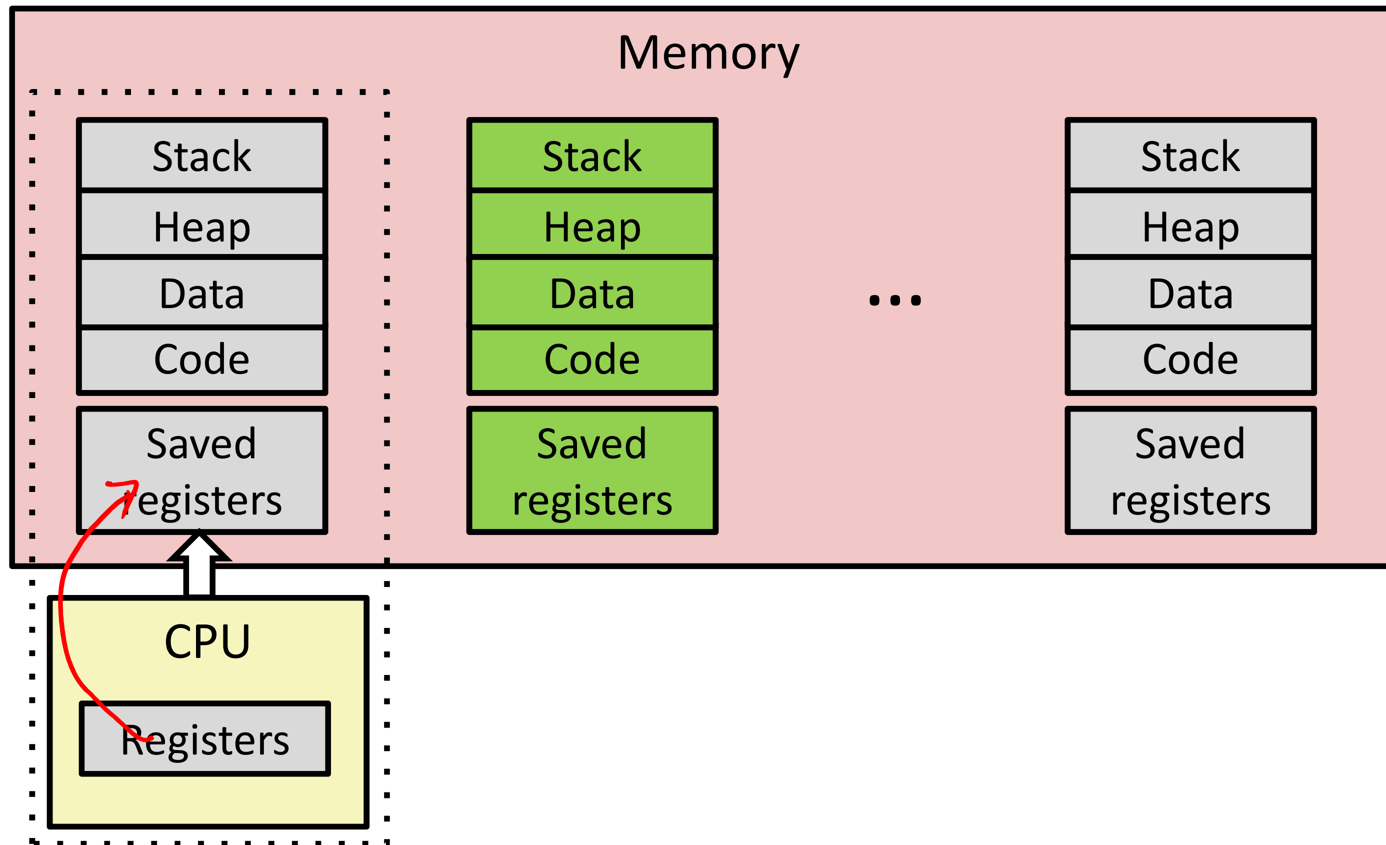
} mostly kernel/OS - level

Multiprocessing: The Reality



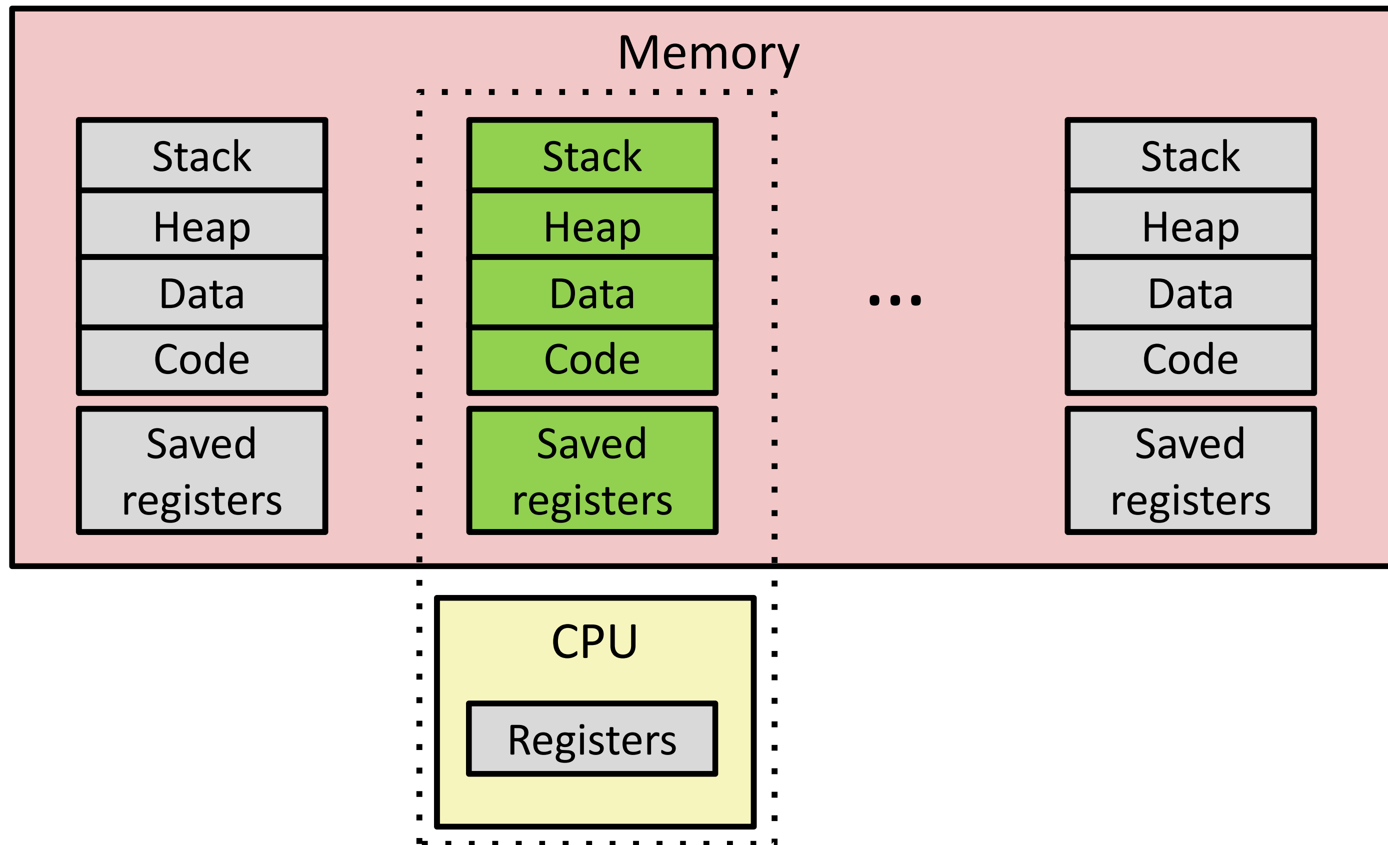
- Single processor executes multiple processes *concurrently*
  - Process executions interleaved, CPU runs *one at a time*
  - Address spaces managed by virtual memory system (later in course)
  - *Execution context* (register values, stack, …) for other processes saved in memory

Multiprocessing



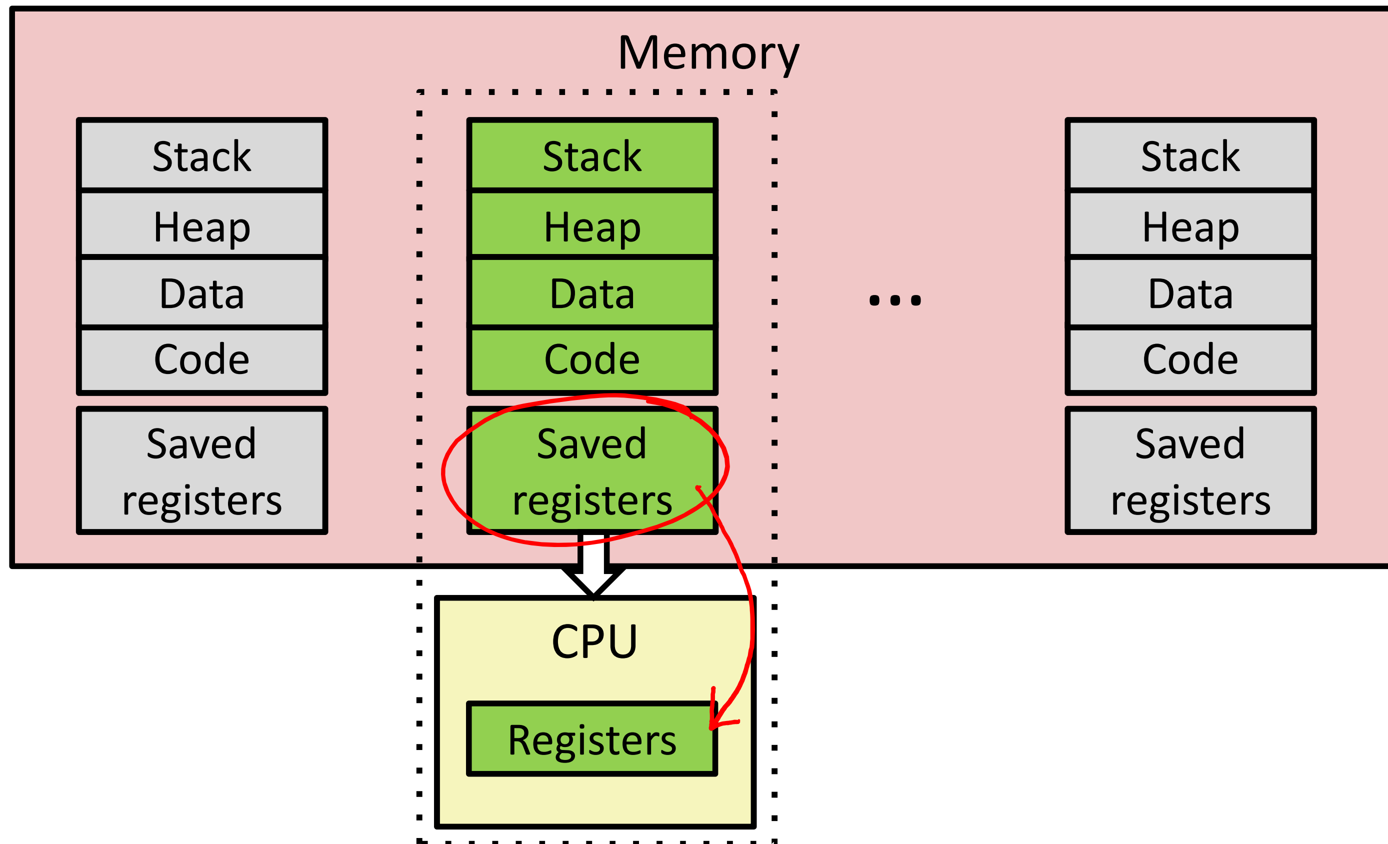
- Context switch
  1) **Save current registers in memory**

Multiprocessing



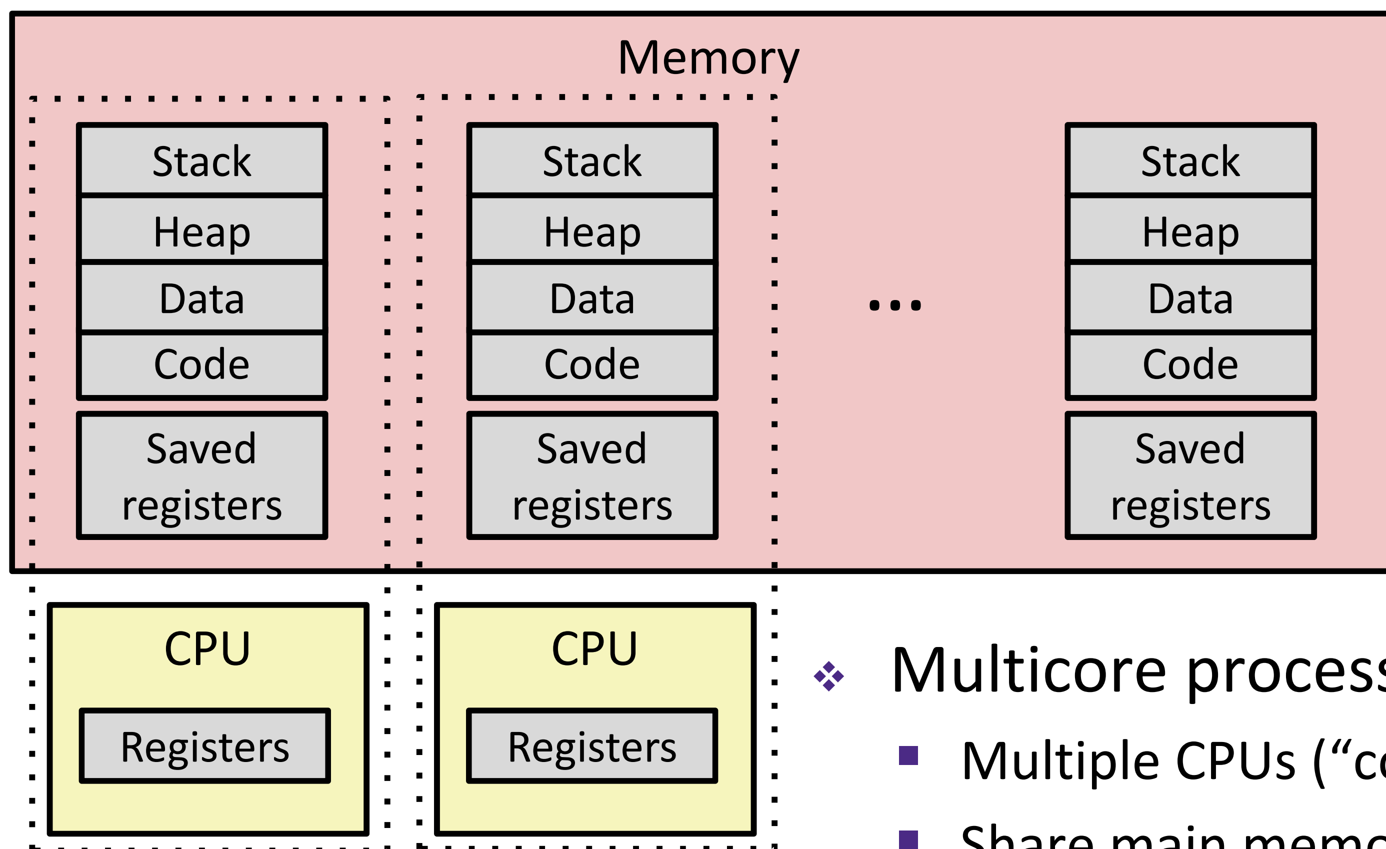
- Context switch
  1) Save current registers in memory
  2) **Schedule next process for execution** (OS decides)

Multiprocessing



- Context switch
  1) Save current registers in memory
  2) Schedule next process for execution
  3) **Load saved registers and switch address space**

Multiprocessing: The (Modern) Reality

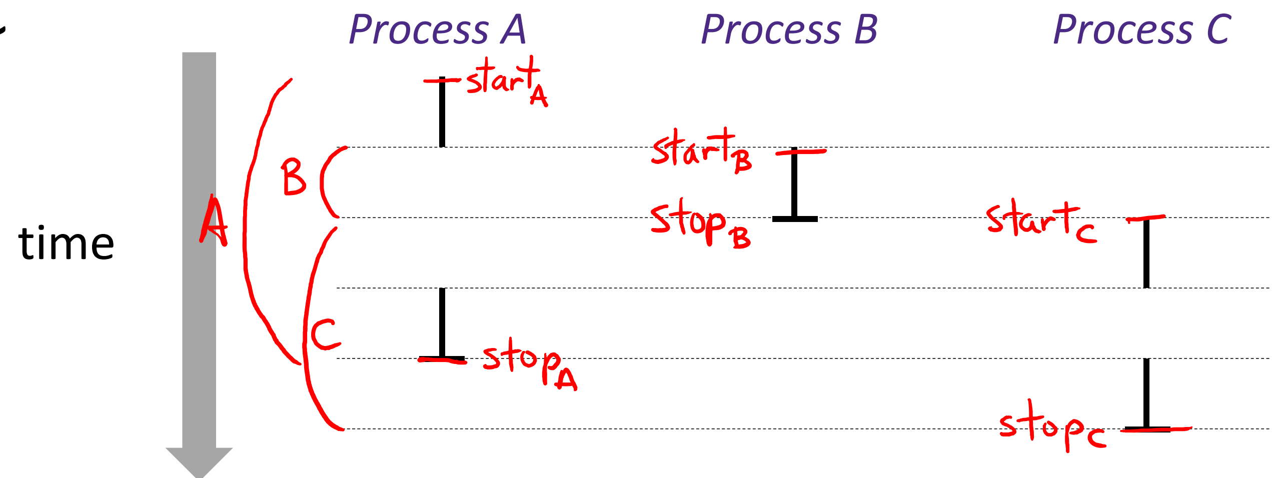


- Multicore processors
  - Multiple CPUs (“cores”) on single chip
  - Share main memory (and some of the caches)
  - Each can execute a separate process
    - Kernel schedules processes to cores
    - ***Still* constantly swapping processes**

Concurrent Processes

Assume only one CPU

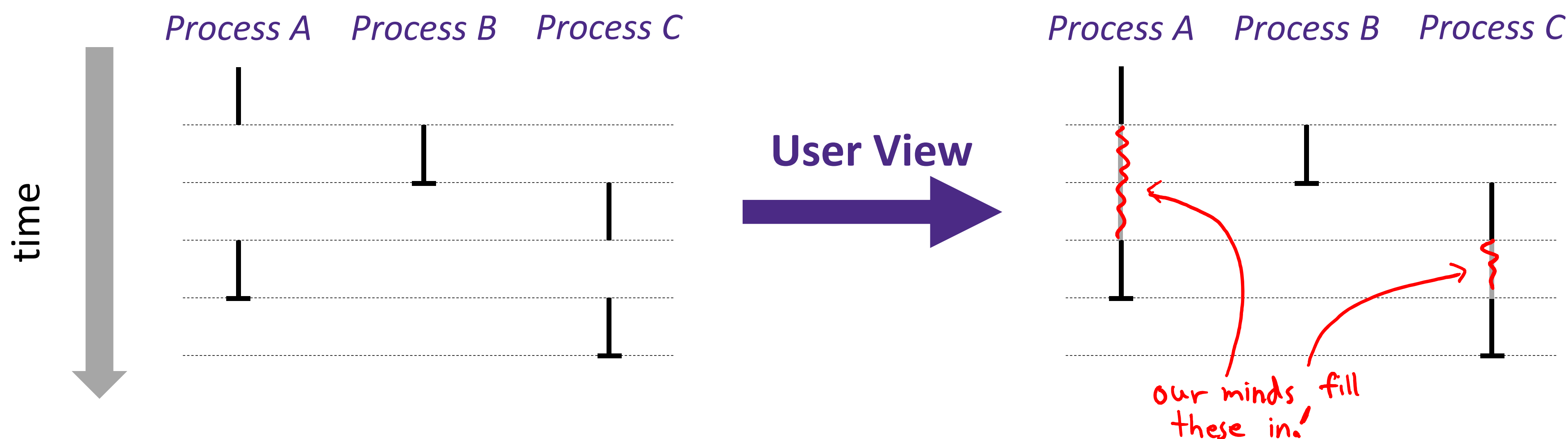
- Each process is a logical control flow
- Two processes *run concurrently* (are concurrent) if their instruction executions (flows) overlap in time
  - Otherwise, they are *sequential*
- Example: (running on single core)
  - Concurrent: A & B, A & C
  - Sequential: B & C



User's View of Concurrency

Assume only one CPU

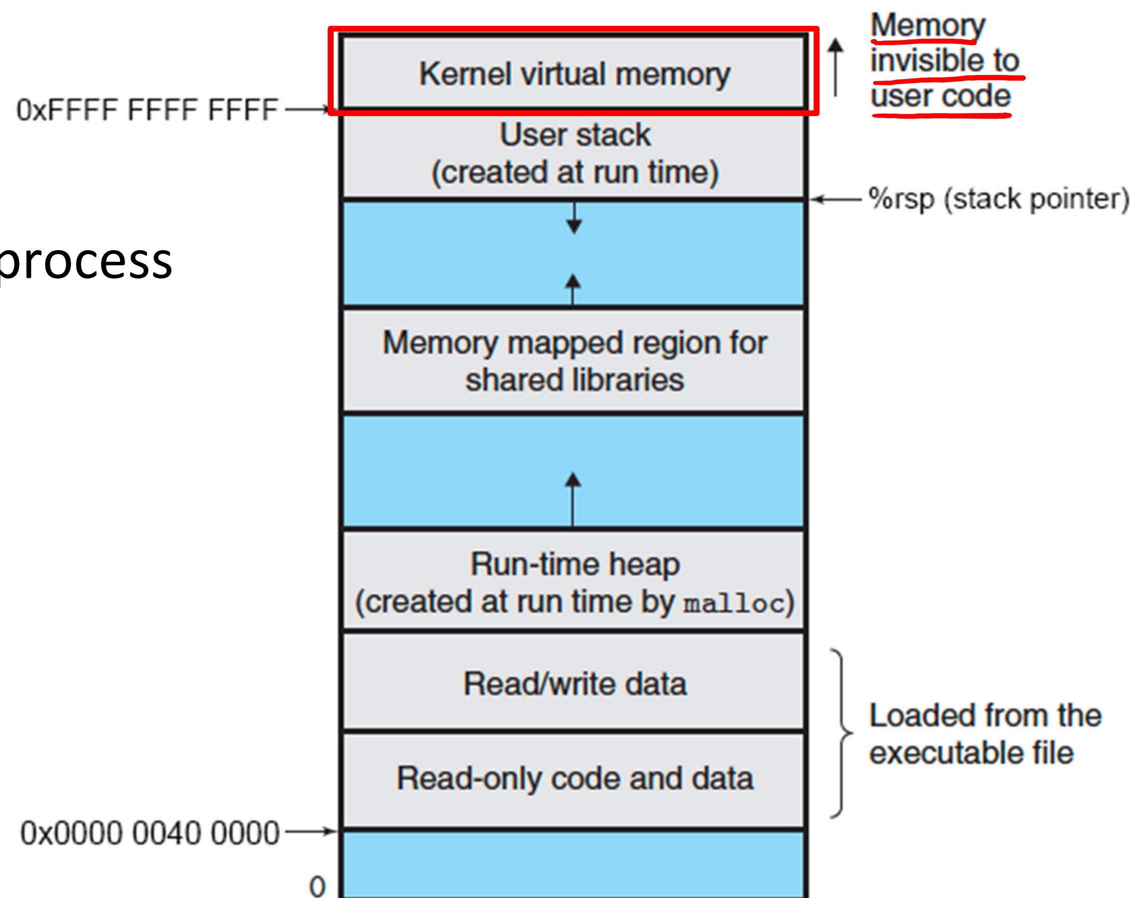
- Control flows for concurrent processes are physically disjoint in time
  - CPU only executes instructions for one process at a time
- However, the user can *think of* concurrent processes as executing at the same time, in *parallel*



Context Switching

Assume only one CPU

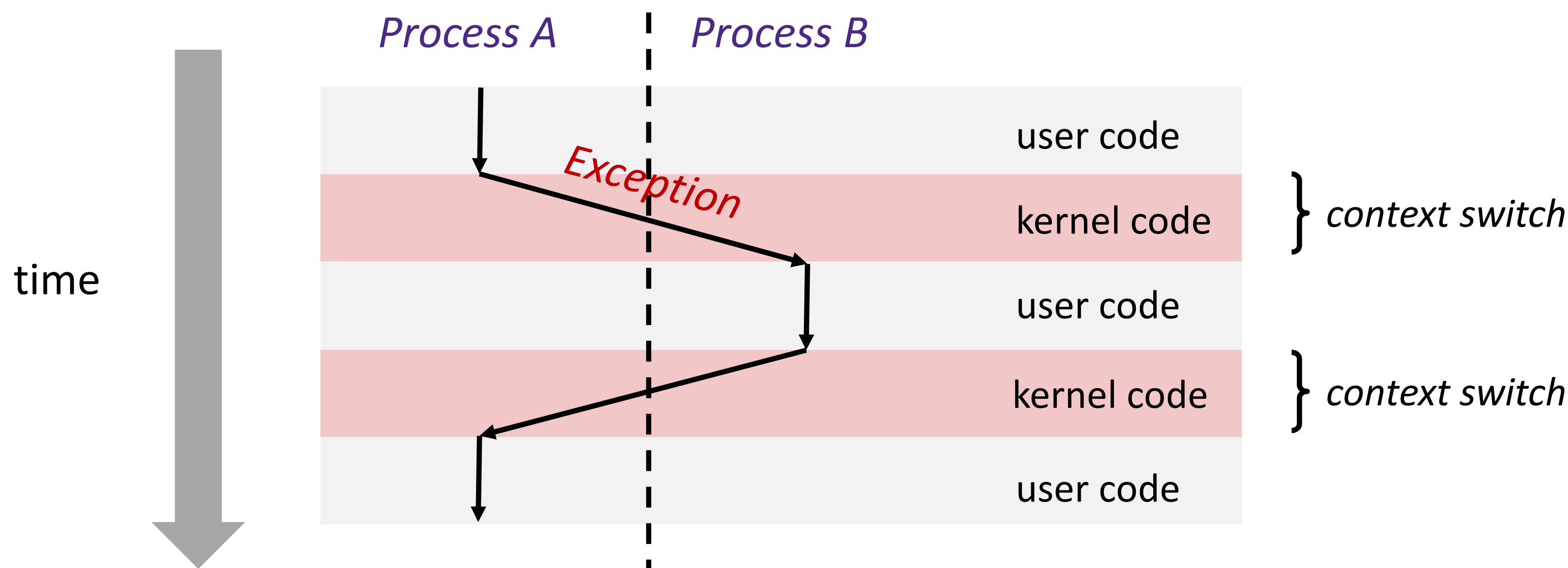
- Processes are managed by a *shared* chunk of OS code called the kernel
  - The kernel is not a separate process, but rather runs as part of a user process
- In x86-64 Linux:
  - Same address in each process refers to same shared memory location



Context Switching

Assume only one CPU

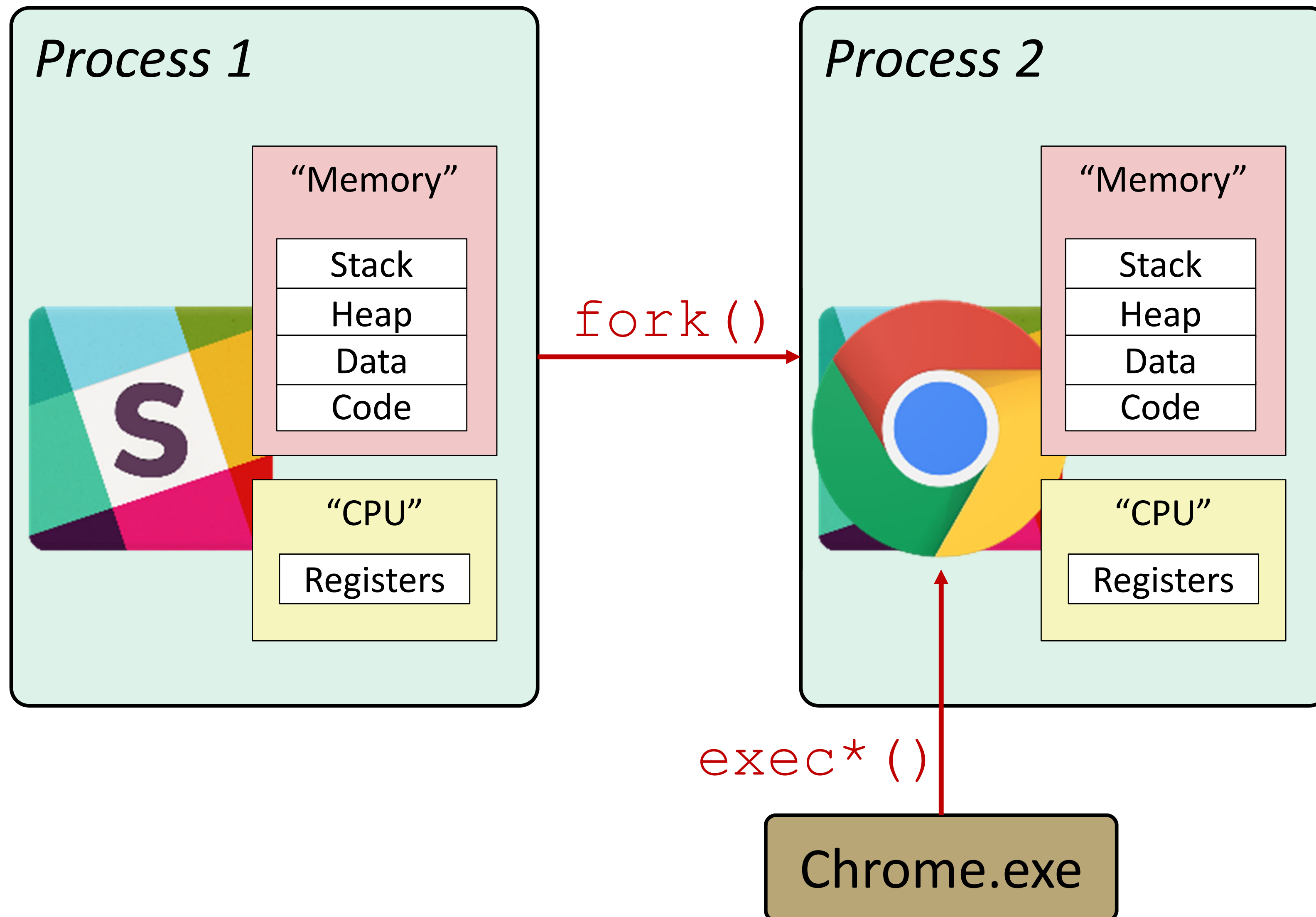
- Processes are managed by a *shared* chunk of OS code called the kernel
  - The kernel is not a separate process, but rather runs as part of a user process
- Context switch passes control flow from one process to another and is performed using kernel code



Processes

- Processes and context switching
- **Creating new processes**
  - `fork()`, `exec*()`, and `wait()`
- Zombies

Creating New Processes & Programs

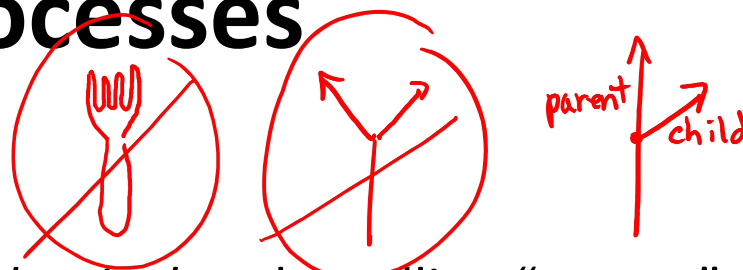


Creating New Processes & Programs

- fork-exec model (Linux):
  - `fork()` creates a copy of the current process
  - `exec*()` replaces the current process' code and address space with the code for a different program
    - Family: `execv`, `execl`, `execve`, `execle`, `execvp`, `execlp`
  - `fork()` and `execve()` are *system calls*
    ↳ intentional, synchronous exceptions ⇒ traps

- Other system calls for process management:
  - `getpid()`
  - `exit()`
  - `wait()`, `waitpid()`

`fork`: Creating New Processes



returns a PID

- `pid_t fork(void)`
  - Creates a new "child" process that is *identical* to the calling "parent" process, including all state (memory, registers, etc.)
  - Returns 0 to the child process
  - Returns child's process ID (PID) to the parent process

- Child is *almost* identical to parent:
  - Child gets an identical (but separate) copy of the parent's virtual address space
  - Child has a different PID than the parent

```
pid_t pid = fork();
if (pid == 0) {
   printf("hello from child\n");
} else {
   printf("hello from parent\n");
}
```

parent gets child's PID
child gets 0

- `fork` is unique (and often confusing) because it is called once but returns "twice"

Understanding fork

Process X (parent) PID X

```
pid_t pid = fork();
if (pid == 0) {
   printf("hello from child\n");
} else {
   printf("hello from parent\n");
}
```

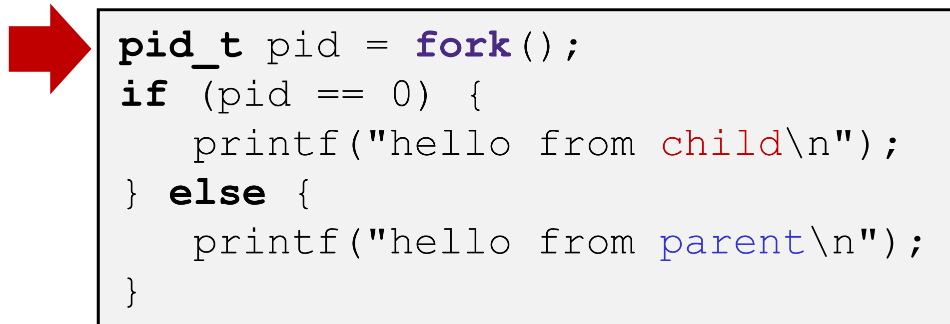
fork

Process Y (child) PID Y

```
pid_t pid = fork();
if (pid == 0) {
   printf("hello from child\n");
} else {
   printf("hello from parent\n");
}
```

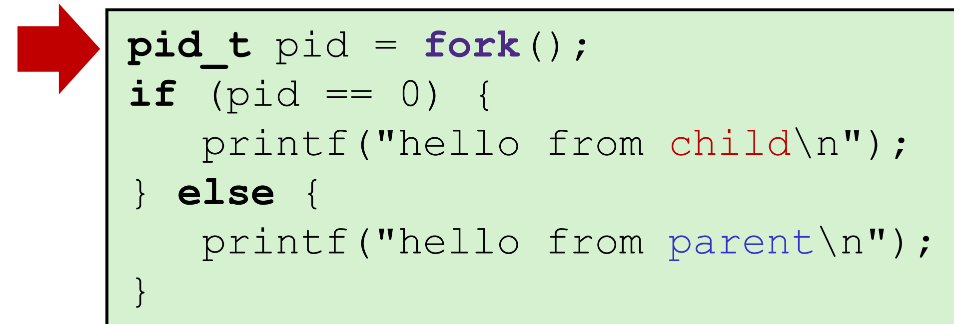
Understanding fork

Process X (parent)



```
pid_t pid = fork();
if (pid == 0) {
   printf("hello from child\n");
} else {
   printf("hello from parent\n");
}
```

Process Y (child)



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pid_t pid = fork();
if (pid == 0) {
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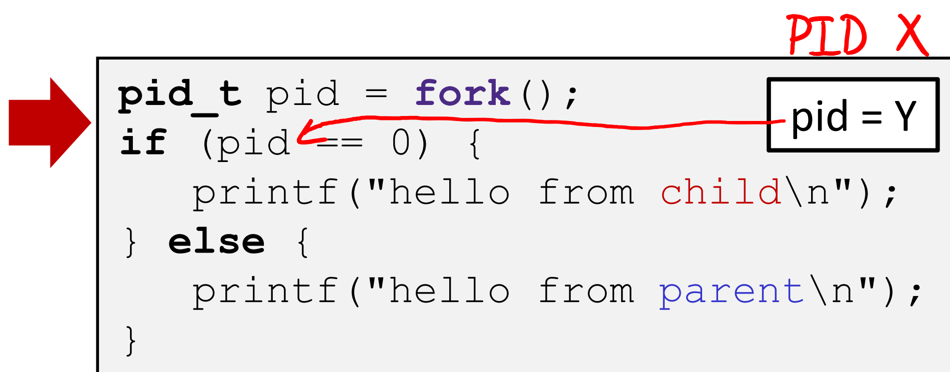


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pid_t pid = fork();
if (pid == 0) {
   printf("hello from child\n");
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   printf("hello from parent\n");
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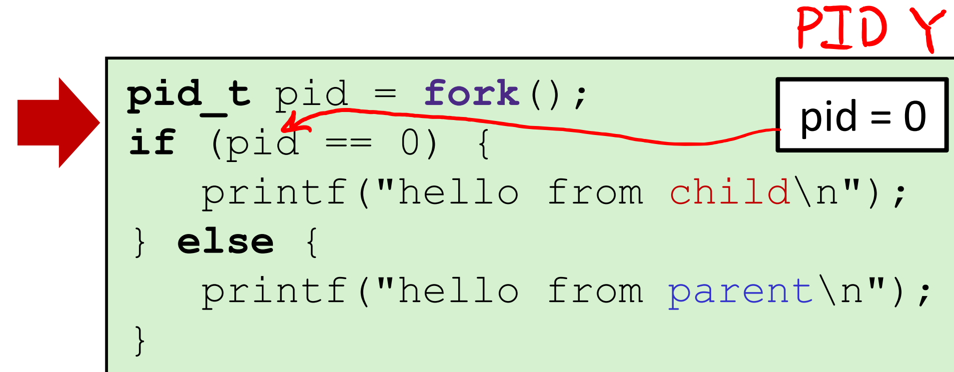
```




```
pid_t pid = fork();
if (pid == 0) {
   printf("hello from child\n");
} else {
   printf("hello from parent\n");
}
```

Understanding fork

Process X (parent)

```
pid_t pid = fork();
if (pid == 0) {
   printf("hello from child\n");
} else {
   printf("hello from parent\n");
}
```

Process Y (child)

```
pid_t pid = fork();
if (pid == 0) {
   printf("hello from child\n");
} else {
   printf("hello from parent\n");
}
```

pid = Y

```
pid_t pid = fork();
if (pid == 0) {
   printf("hello from child\n");
} else {
   printf("hello from parent\n");
}
```

pid = 0

```
pid_t pid = fork();
if (pid == 0) {
   printf("hello from child\n");
} else {
   printf("hello from parent\n");
}
```

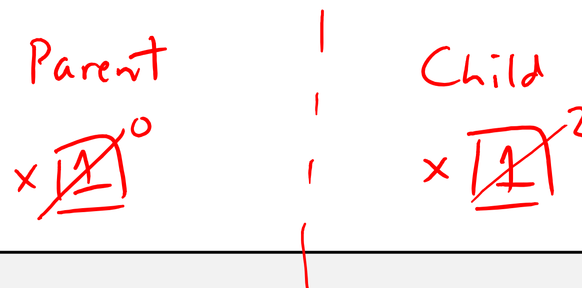
```
hello from parent
```

```
hello from child
```

Which one appears first?

non-deterministic!

Fork Example

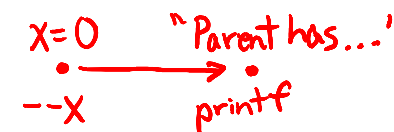



```
void fork1() {
    int x = 1;
    pid_t pid = fork();          splits here
    if (pid == 0)
        printf("Child has x = %d\n", ++x);   ← child only
    else
        printf("Parent has x = %d\n", --x);  ← parent only
    printf("Bye from process %d with x = %d\n", getpid(), x);  ← both
}
```

- Both processes continue/start execution after `fork`
  - Child starts at instruction after the call to `fork` (storing into `pid`)
- Can't predict execution order of parent and child
- Both processes start with `x=1`
  - Subsequent changes to `x` are independent
- Shared open files: stdout is the same in both parent and child

Modeling `fork` with Process Graphs

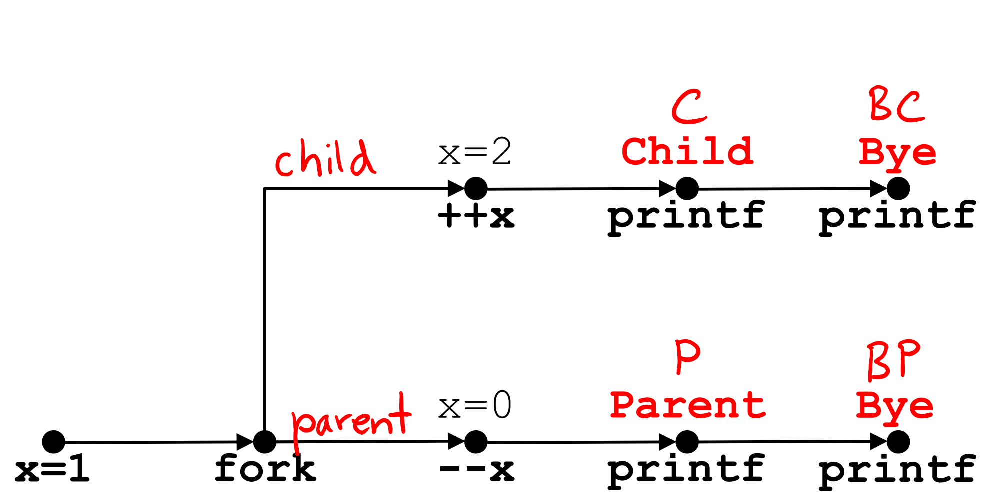
- A *process graph* is a useful tool for capturing the partial ordering of statements in a concurrent program
  - Each vertex is the execution of a statement
  - `a` → `b` means `a` happens before `b`
  - Edges can be labeled with current value of variables
  - `printf` vertices can be labeled with output
  - Each graph begins with a vertex with no inedges



- Any *topological sort* of the graph corresponds to a feasible total ordering
  - Total ordering of vertices where all edges point from left to right

Fork Example: Possible Output

```
void fork1() {
    int x = 1;
    pid_t pid = fork();
    if (pid == 0)
        printf("Child has x = %d\n", ++x);
    else
        printf("Parent has x = %d\n", --x);
    printf("Bye from process %d with x = %d\n", getpid(), x);
}
```



Possible

C	P	C	C	
BC	BP	P	P	etc…
P	C	BC	BP	
BP	BP	BP	BC	

Not Possible

C	P	
BC	BC	etc…
BP	C	
P	BP	

as long as C comes before BC
and P comes before BP

Peer Instruction Question

- Are the following sequences of outputs possible?
  - Vote at http://PollEv.com/justinh

```c
void nestedfork() {
    printf("L0\n");
    if (fork() == 0) {
        printf("L1\n");
        if (fork() == 0) {
            printf("L2\n");
        }
    }
    printf("Bye\n");
}
```

Seq 1:	Seq 2:
L0	L0 ← Process 1
L1	Bye ← Process 1
Bye	L1 ← Process 2
Bye	L2 ← Process 3
Bye	Bye ← Process 2/3
L2 !	Bye ← Process 3/2

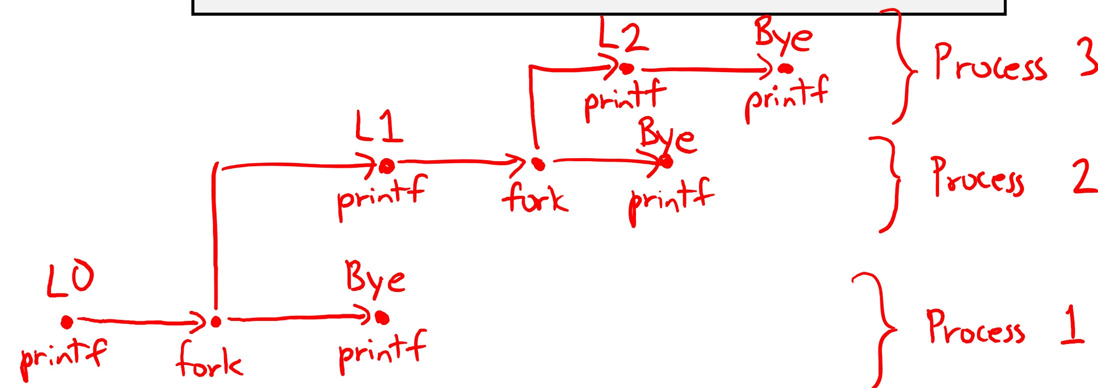
A. No No

B. No Yes

C. Yes No

D. Yes Yes

E. We're lost...



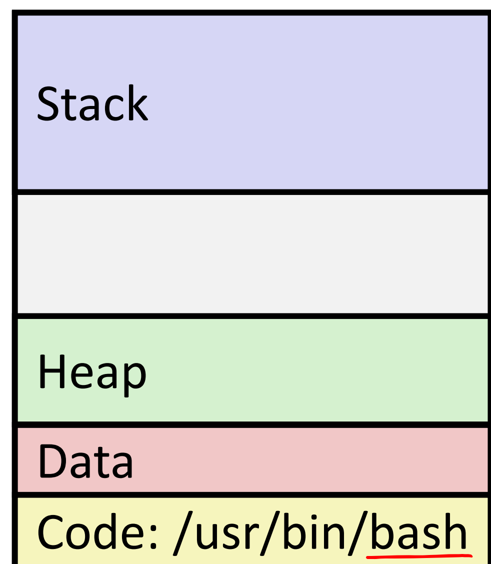
Fork-Exec

Note: the return values of `fork` and `exec*` should be checked for errors

- fork-exec model:
  - `fork()` creates a copy of the current process
  - `exec*()` replaces the current process' code and address space with the code for a different program
    - Whole family of `exec` calls – see **`exec(3)`** and **`execve(2)`**

```
// Example arguments: path="/usr/bin/ls",
//      argv[0]="/usr/bin/ls", argv[1]="-ahl", argv[2]=NULL
void fork_exec(char *path, char *argv[]) {
   pid_t pid = fork();
   if (pid != 0) {
      printf("Parent: created a child %d\n", pid);
   } else {
      printf("Child: about to exec a new program\n");
      execv(path, argv);
   }
   printf("This line printed by parent only!\n");
}
```

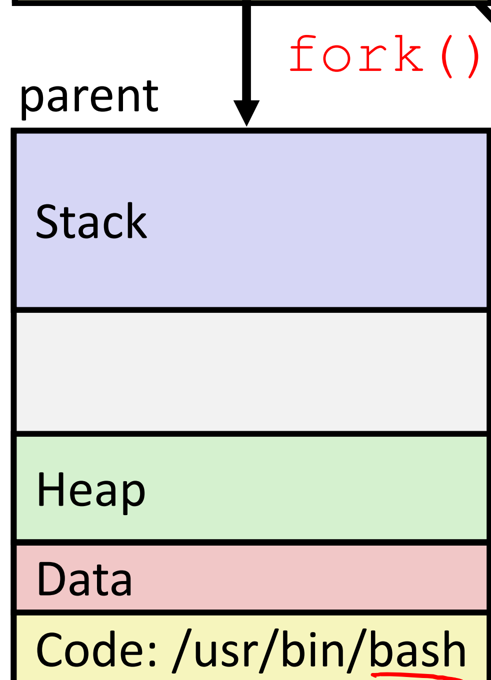
Exec-ing a new program

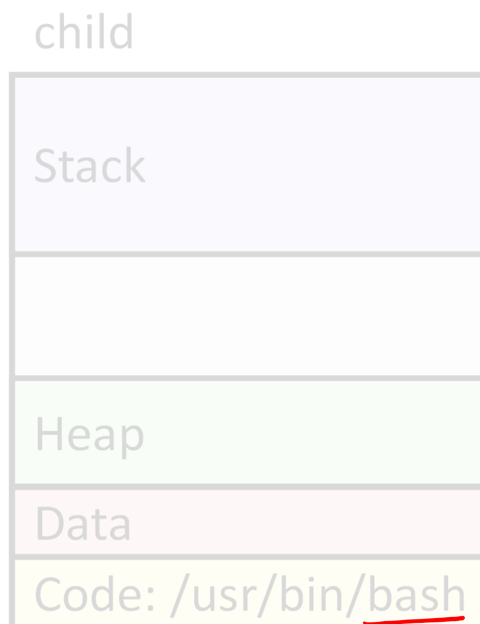


Very high-level diagram of what happens when you run the command "`ls`" in a Linux shell:

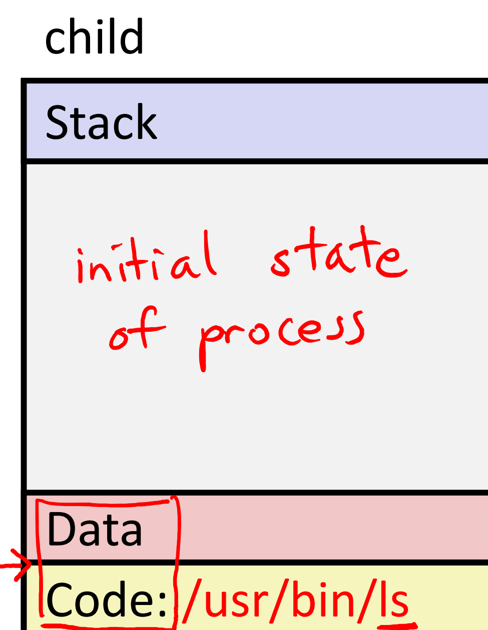
- This is the loading part of CALL!

fork()





exec*()

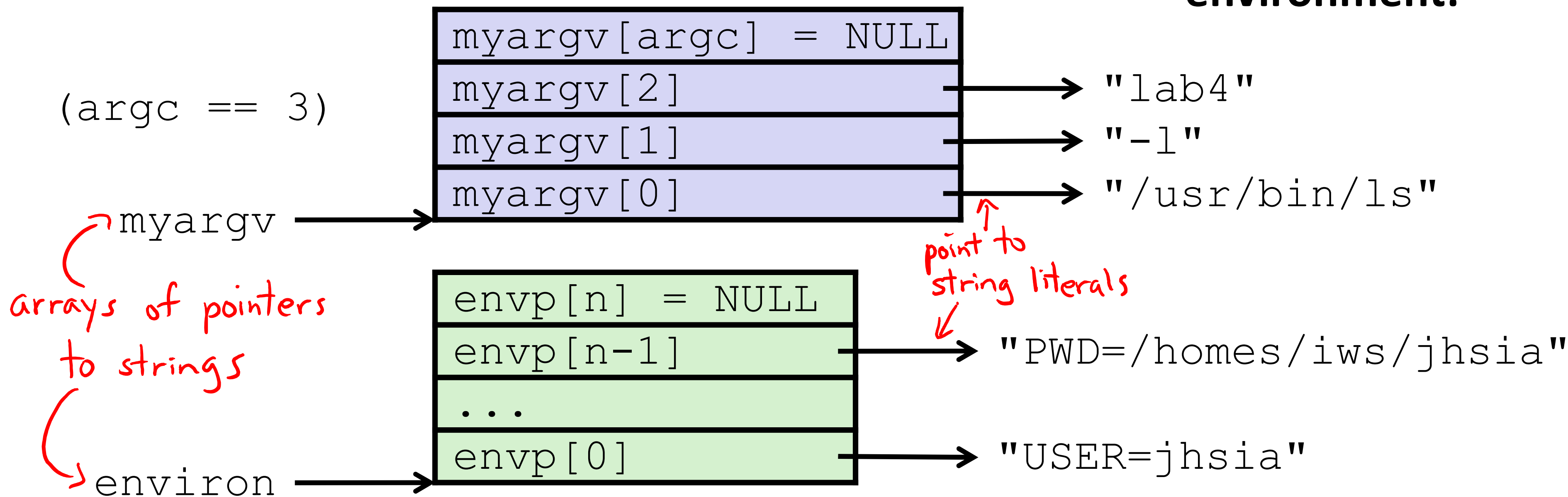


execve Example

This is extra (non-testable) material

int main(int argc, char* argv[]) — get command-line arguments into program

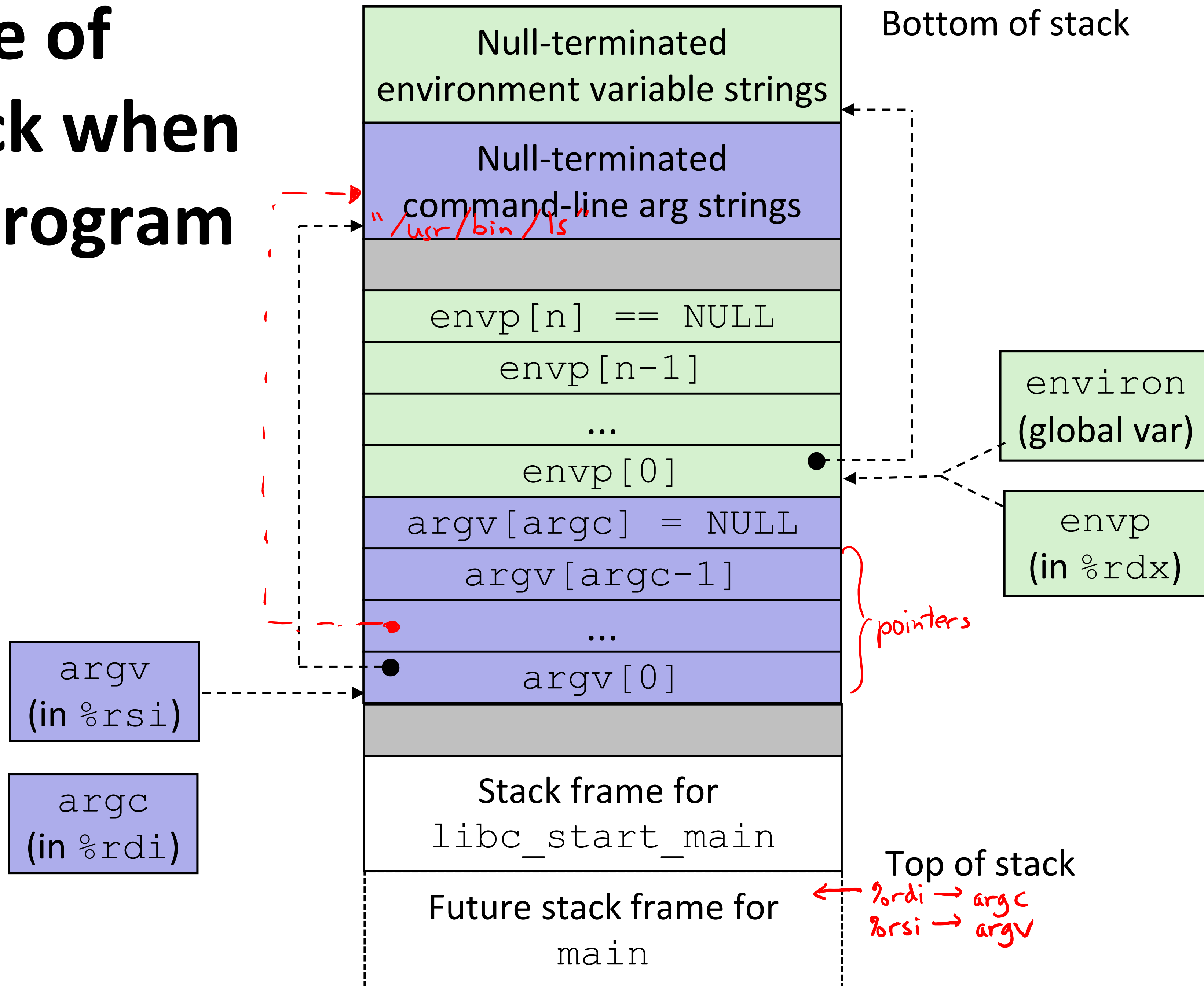
Execute "/usr/bin/ls –l lab4" in child process using current environment:




```
if ((pid = fork()) == 0) {    /* Child runs program */
   if (execve(myargv[0], myargv, environ) < 0) {
      printf("%s: Command not found.\n", myargv[0]);
      exit(1);
   }
}
```

Run the `printenv` command in a Linux shell to see your own environment variables

Structure of the Stack when a new program starts



This is extra (non-testable) material

`exit`: Ending a process

- `void exit(int status)`
  - Explicitly exits a process
    - Status code: 0 is used for a normal exit, nonzero for abnormal exit
- The `return` statement from `main()` also ends a process in C
  - The return value is the status code

Summary

- Processes
  - At any given time, system has multiple active processes
  - On a one-CPU system, only one can execute at a time, but each process appears to have total control of the processor
  - OS periodically "context switches" between active processes
    - Implemented using *exceptional control flow*
- Process management
  - `fork`: one call, two returns
  - `execve`: one call, usually no return
  - `wait` or `waitpid`: synchronization
  - `exit`: one call, no return

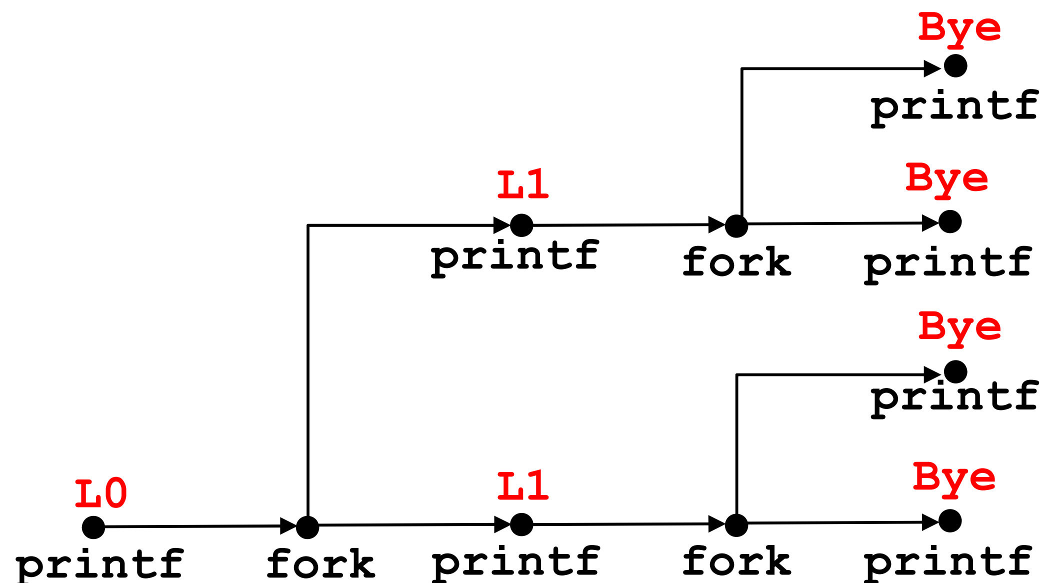
BONUS SLIDES

Detailed examples:

- Consecutive forks

Example: Two consecutive `forks`

```
void fork2() {
    printf("L0\n");
    fork();
    printf("L1\n");
    fork();
    printf("Bye\n");
}
```



Feasible output:
L0
L1
Bye
Bye
L1
Bye
Bye

Infeasible output:
L0
Bye
L1
Bye
L1
Bye
Bye

Example: Three consecutive `forks`

- Both parent and child can continue forking

```
void fork3() {
    printf("L0\n");
    fork();
    printf("L1\n");
    fork();
    printf("L2\n");
    fork();
    printf("Bye\n");
}
```