NEU CS 3650 Computer Systems

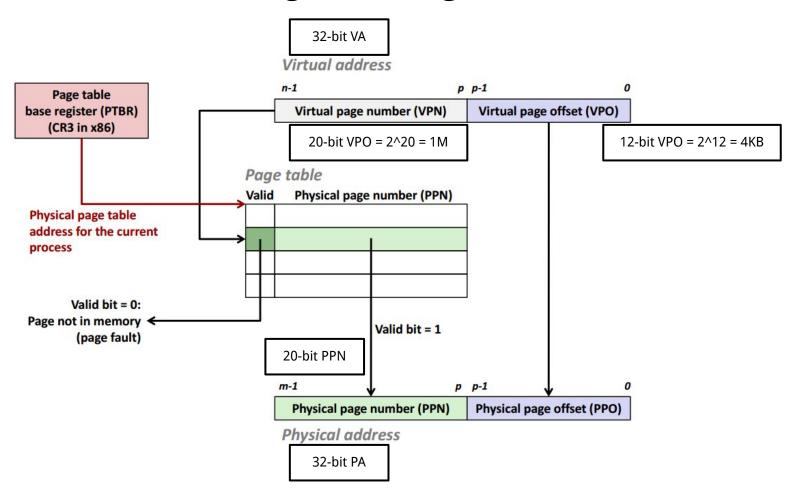
Instructor: Dr. Ziming Zhao

x86 32-bit as an Example

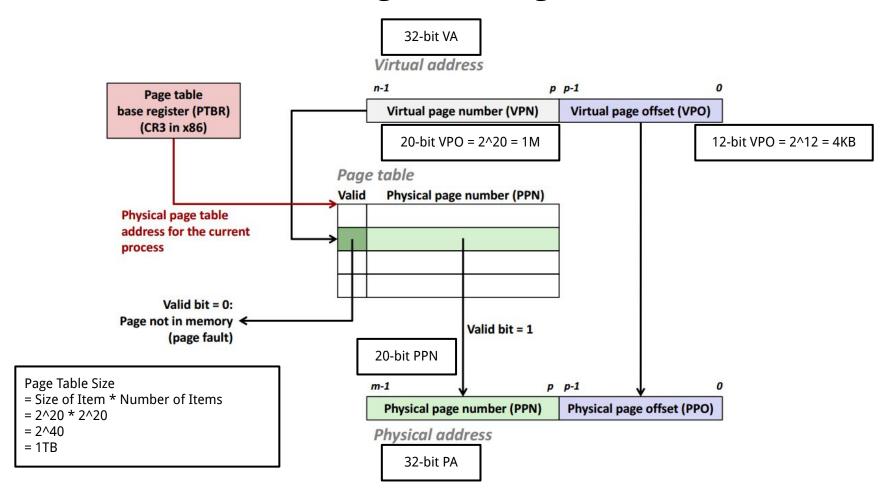
x86 32-bit as an Example: Goal

- Translate 32-bit virtual address to 32-bit physical address
- A page is 4096 (4KB).

How Big is the Page Table?



How Big is the Page Table?



Observations

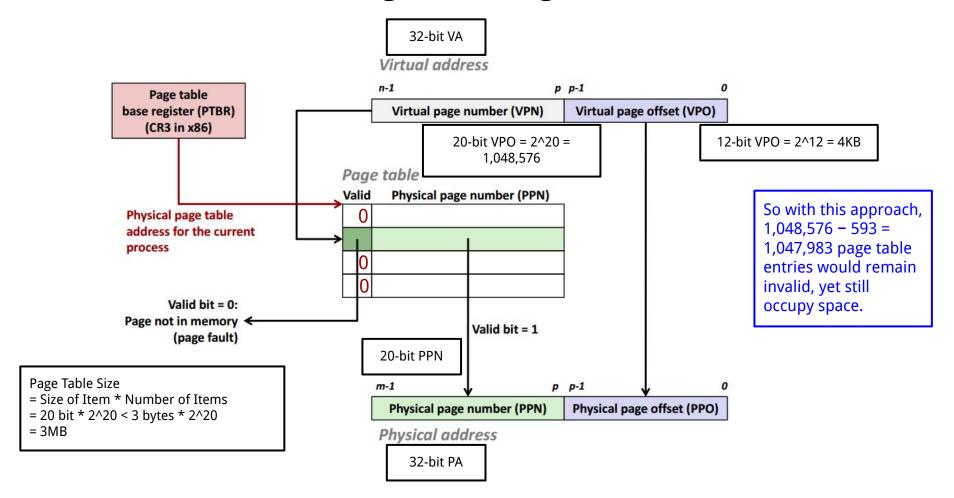
• A large portion of the Virtual Address Space is not used. So not every virtual page number (VPN) needs to be translated. (In the example below: only 2372/4 = 593 pages are used)

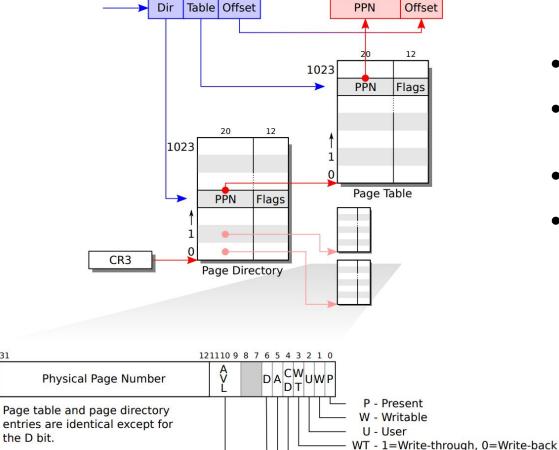
```
1 \text{ GB} = 0x40000000
```

2 GB = 0x80000000

| ziming@ziming-ThinkPad:~/Dropbox/myTeaching/System Security - Attack and Defense for Binaries UB 2020/code/processmap\$ pmap -X 21732 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|----------|--------|------------|------|-----|-----|------------|-----------|----------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------|----------|----------|---|
| 21732: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Address | Perm | Offset | Device | . Inode | Size | Rss | Pss | Referenced | Anonymous | LazyFree | . ShmemPmdMapped | <pre>J Shared_Hugetlb</pre> | b Private_Hugetlb |) Swar | > SwapPs | s Locker | Mapping |
| 56569000 | r-xp | 00000000 | 103:02 | 2 28575310 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 9 | 0 | J 6 | 1 |) (| 0 pm |
| 5656a000 | гр | 00000000 | 103:02 | 2 28575310 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 | P | 5 | 0 | J P |) [|) [| 0 pm |
| 5656b000 | rw-p | 00001000 | 103:02 | 2 28575310 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | . 0 | P | 5 | 0 | J 6 |) / | 0 0 | 0 pm |
| 57cf2000 | rw-p | 00000000 | 00:00 | 0 | 136 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 | P | S 6 | P | 0 | 5 | 0 0 | 0 [heap] |
| f7d73000 | г-хр | 00000000 | 103:02 | 2 2883591 | 1876 | 772 | 772 | 772 | . 0 | 0 | P | S 6 | 9 | J P |) | 0 0 | 0 libc-2.27.so |
| f7f48000 | р | 001d5000 | 103:02 | 2 2883591 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | P | S 6 | 9 | J P |) | 0 0 | 0 libc-2.27.so |
| f7f49000 | гр | 001d5000 | 103:02 | 2 2883591 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 0 | P | 9 | 0 | J 6 |) / | 0 0 | 0 libc-2.27.so |
| f7f4b000 | rw-p | 001d7000 | 103:02 | 2 2883591 | | 4 | | 4 | 4 | . 0 | P | <i>5</i> | 9 | 0 |) | 0 0 | 0 libc-2.27.so |
| f7f4c000 | rw-p | 00000000 | 00:00 | 0 | 12 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 6 | 9 | P | J 6 |) I |) (| |
| f7f75000 | rw-p | 00000000 | 00:00 | 9 0 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 0 | P | 5 | P | J |) | 3 | J. T. |
| f7f77000 | гр | 00000000 | 00:00 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | P | J 6 |) [| 0 0 | 0 [vvar] |
| f7f7a000 | г-хр | 00000000 | 00:00 | 9 0 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | P | 0 | P | S 6 | P | 0 | 3 | 0 0 | 0 [vdso] |
| f7f7c000 | г-хр | 00000000 | 103:02 | 2 2883587 | 152 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 0 | 0 | P | J 6 | 9 | J 6 |) | 0 0 | 0 ld-2.27.so |
| f7fa2000 | гр | 00025000 | 103:02 | 2883587 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | . 0 | P | S 6 | 0 | J P |) | 0 0 | 0 ld-2.27.so |
| f7fa3000 | rw-p | 00026000 | 103:02 | 2 2883587 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | . 0 | P | 5 | 0 | J 6 |) / | 0 0 | 0 ld-2.27.so |
| ffef3000 | rw-p | 00000000 | 00:00 | 0 | 132 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 2 12 | 2 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | J 6 |) [| 0 0 | 0 [stack] |
| | | | | | | A | | | | A | A | <i>-</i> | | A | | = ===== | |
| | | | | | 2372 | 988 | 988 | 988 | 60 | 0 0 | 0 0 | 9 | 0 _ 0 | J P |) | 0 0 | 0 KB |
| | | | | | 4 | | | • | | | | | | | | | |

How Big is the Page Table?





Physical Address

CD - Cache Disabled A - Accessed

D - Dirty (0 in page directory) AVL - Available for system use

Virtual address

the D bit.

The solution

- A page table is stored in physical memory as a two-level tree.
- The root of the tree is a 4096-byte page directory that contains 1024 PTE-like references to page table pages.
- Each page table page is an array of 1024 32-bit PTEs.
- This two-level structure allows a page table to omit entire page table pages.

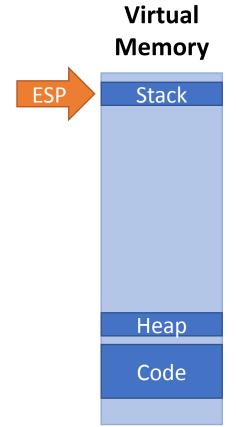
xv6 definitions

```
// page directory index
#define PDX(va)
                       (((uint)(va) >> PDXSHIFT) & 0x3FF)
// page table index
#define PTX(va)
                       (((uint)(va) >> PTXSHIFT) & 0x3FF)
// construct virtual address from indexes and offset
#define PGADDR(d, t, o) ((uint)((d) << PDXSHIFT | (t) << PTXSHIFT | (o)))</pre>
// Page directory and page table constants.
#define NPDENTRIES
                              // # directory entries per page directory
                       1024
                              // # PTEs per page table
#define NPTENTRIES
                       1024
                               // bytes mapped by a page
#define PGSIZE
                       4096
#define PTXSHIFT
                       12 // offset of PTX in a linear address
#define PDXSHIFT
                       22
                            // offset of PDX in a linear address
#define PGROUNDUP(sz) (((sz)+PGSIZE-1) & ~(PGSIZE-1))
#define PGROUNDDOWN(a) (((a)) & ~(PGSIZE-1))
// Page table/directory entry flags.
#define PTE P
                       0x001 // Present
#define PTE_W
                       0x002 // Writeable
                       0x004 // User
#define PTE_U
#define PTE_PS
                       0x080 // Page Size
// Address in page table or page directory entry
#define PTE_ADDR(pte) ((uint)(pte) & ~0xFFF)
#define PTE_FLAGS(pte) ((uint)(pte) & 0xFFF)
```

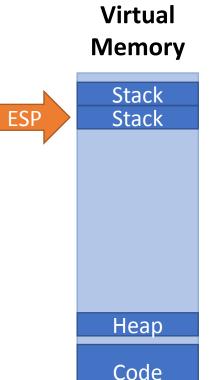
https://github.com/mit-pdos/xv6-public/blob/master/mmu.h

Memory allocators

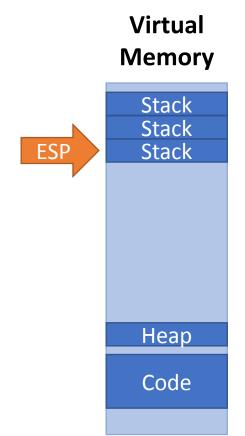
- Page tables allow the OS to dynamically assign physical frames to processes on-demand
 - E.g., if the stack grows, the OS can map in an additional page



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 - E.g., if the stack grows, the OS can map in an additional page
- On Linux, processes use sbrk()/brk()/mmap() to request additional heap pages
 - But these syscalls only allocates memory in multiples of 4KB
 - Why 4KB?



Stack Stack Stack

Heap

Code

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SP

Stack

Stack

Stack

Heap Heap

Code

What About malloc() and free()?

- The OS only allocates and frees memory in units of 4KB pages
 - What if you want to allocate <4KB of memory?
 - E.g. char * string = (char *) malloc(100);

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- Each process manages its own heap memory
 - On Linux, glibc implements malloc() and free(), manages objects on the heap
 - The JVM uses a garbage collector to manage the heap

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There are many different strategies for managing free memory

Free Space Management

- How do processes manage free memory?
 - 1. Explicit memory management
 - Languages like C, C++; programmers control memory allocation and deallocation
 - 2. Implicit memory management
 - Languages like Java, Javascript, Python; runtime takes care of freeing useless objects from memory

 In both cases, software must keep track of the memory that is in use or available

Why Should You Care?

• Regardless of language, all of our code uses dynamic memory

 However, there is a performance cost associated with using dynamic memory

- Understanding how the heap is managed leads to:
 - More performant applications
 - The ability to diagnose difficult memory related errors and performance bottlenecks

Setting the Stage

- Many languages allow programmers to explicitly allocate and deallocate memory
 - C, C++
 - malloc() and free()
- Programmers can *malloc()* any size of memory
 - Not limited to 4KB pages
- free() takes a pointer, but not a size
 - How does free() know how many bytes to deallocate?
- Pointers to allocated memory are returned to the programmer
 - As opposed to Java or C# where pointers are "managed"
 - Code may modify these pointers

Requirements and Goals

- Keep track of memory usage
 - What bytes of the heap are currently allocated/unallocated?
- Store the size of each allocation
 - So that *free()* will work with just a pointer
- Minimize fragmentation
 - ... without doing compaction or relocation
 - More on this later
- Maintain higher performance
 - O(1) operations are obviously faster than O(n), etc.
 - We won't cover this in class; you may refer to the textbook

```
obj * obj1, * obj2;
hash_tbl * ht;
int array[];
char * str1, * str2;
... // allocation of objects
```



```
obj * obj1, * obj2;
hash_tbl * ht;
int array[];
char * str1, * str2;
... // allocation of objects
...
free(obj2);
free(array);
```

Heap Memory

str1 array ht obj2 obj1

```
obj * obj1, * obj2;
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```

Heap Memory

str1

ht

obj1

```
obj * obj1, * obj2;
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                                                                               Heap Memory
int array[];
char * str1, * str2;
                                                                                      str1
... // allocation of objects
                                                                   str2
free(obj2);
                                                                                       ht
free(array);
str2 = (char *) malloc(300);

    This is an example of external fragmentation

     • There is enough empty space for str2, but the space isn't usable
                                                                                     obi1
• As we will see, internal fragmentation may also be an issue
```

The Free List

- A free list is a simple data structure for managing heap memory
- Three key components
 - 1. A linked-list that records free regions of memory
 - Free regions get split when memory is allocated
 - Free list is kept in sorted order by memory address
 - 2. Each allocated block of memory has a header that records the size of the block
 - 3. An algorithm that selects which free region of memory to use for each allocation request

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 - Free gions get split when memory is allocated
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 - Design challenge: linked lists are dynamic data structures
 - Dynamic data structures go on the heap
 - But in this case, we are implementing the heap?!

Free List Data Structures

- The free list is a linked list
- Stored in heap memory, alongside other data
- For malloc(n):num_bytes = n + sizeof(header)

```
typedef struct node_t {
    int size;
    struct node_t * next;
} node;
```

typedef struct header_t {
 int size;

} header;

- Linked list of regions of free space
- size = bytes of free space
 - Header for each block of allocated space

node * head

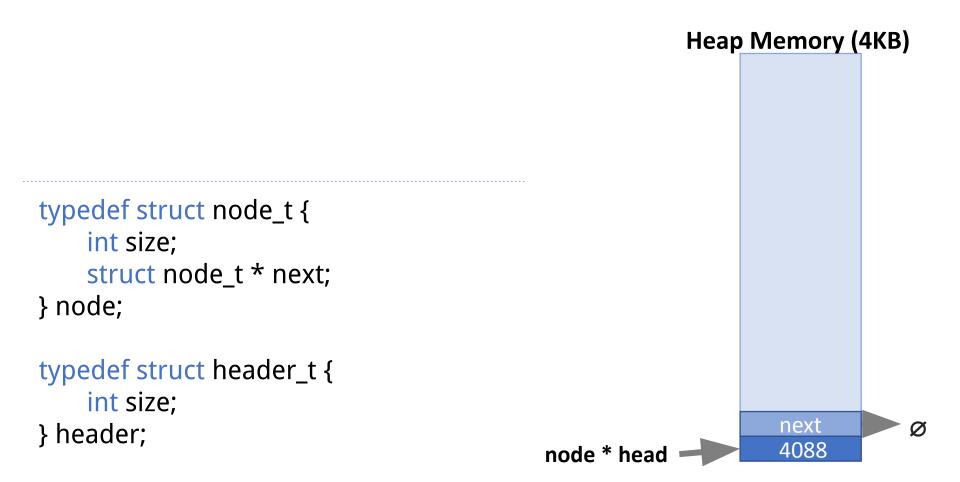
• size = bytes of allocated space

next

Heap Memory (4KB)

2

(sz) 4088



```
char * s1 = (char *) malloc(100); // 104 bytes
                                                         Heap Memory (4KB)
typedef struct node_t {
    int size;
    struct node t * next;
} node;
typedef struct header_t {
    int size;
                                                                  next
} header;
                                                                  4088
                                             node * head
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    int size;
} header;
                                                char * s1
                                     Header
```

```
char * s1 = (char *) malloc(100); // 104 bytes
                                                           Heap Memory (4KB)
typedef struct node_t {
    int size;
    struct node t * next;
                                  Free region is "split"
} node;
                                 into allocated and free
                                        regions
                                                                   next
typedef struct header_t {
                                                                   3984
                                              node * head
    int size;
} header;
                                                 char * s1
                                      Header
                                                                    100
```

```
char * s1 = (char *) malloc(100); // 104 bytes
                                                         Heap Memory (4KB)
char * s2 = (char *) malloc(100); // 104 bytes
typedef struct node_t {
    int size;
    struct node t * next;
} node;
                                                                  next
typedef struct header_t {
                                                                 3984
                                             node * head
    int size;
} header;
                                                char * s1
```

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char * s1 = (char *) malloc(100); // 104 bytes
                                                          Heap Memory (4KB)
char * s2 = (char *) malloc(100); // 104 bytes
typedef struct node_t {
    int size;
    struct node t * next;
                                                                  next
                                             node * head
                                                                  3880
} node;
                                                char * s2
typedef struct header_t {
                                                                   100
    int size;
} header;
                                                char * s1
```

```
char * s1 = (char *) malloc(100); // 104 bytes
                                                          Heap Memory (4KB)
char * s2 = (char *) malloc(100); // 104 bytes
char * s3 = (char *) malloc(100); // 104 bytes
typedef struct node_t {
    int size;
    struct node t * next;
                                                                  next
                                             node * head
                                                                  3880
} node;
                                                char * s2
typedef struct header_t {
                                                                  100
    int size;
} header;
                                                char * s1
```

Allocating Memory (Splitting)

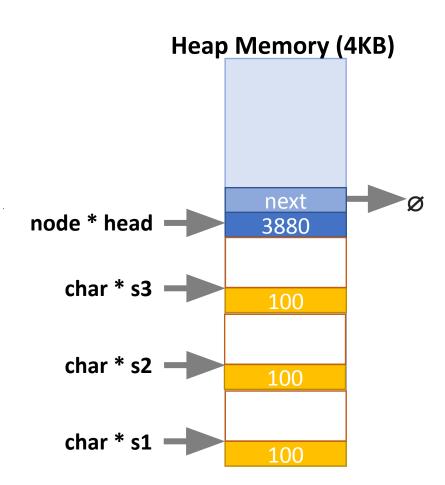
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                                                char * s3
                                                                   100
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typedef struct header_t {
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                                                char * s1
                                                                   100
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    struct node t * next;
                                                char * s3
                                                                   100
} node;
                                                char * s2
typedef struct header_t {
                                                                   100
    int size;
} header;
                                                char * s1
                                                                   100
```

- The free list is kept in sorted order
 - free() is an O(n) operation

```
typedef struct node t {
    int size;
     struct node t * next;
} node;
typedef struct header t {
     int size:
} header;
```

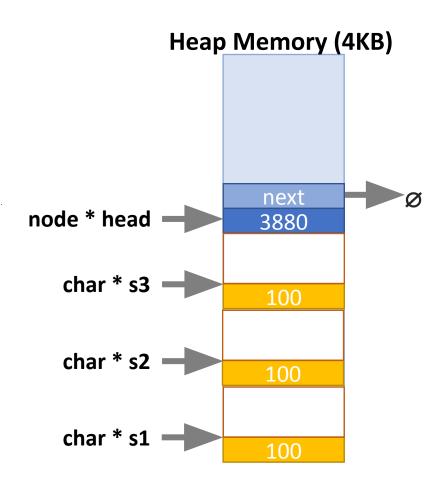


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```
free(s2); // returns 100 + 4 – 8 bytes
```

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typedef struct header_t {
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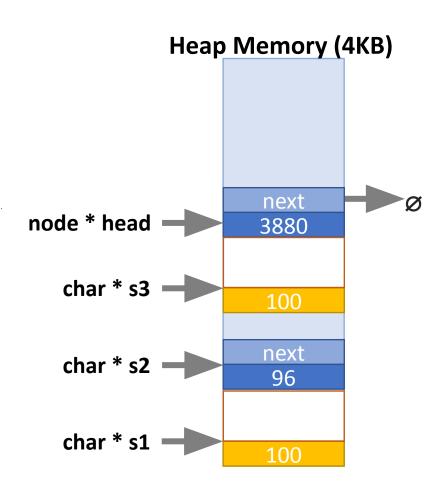


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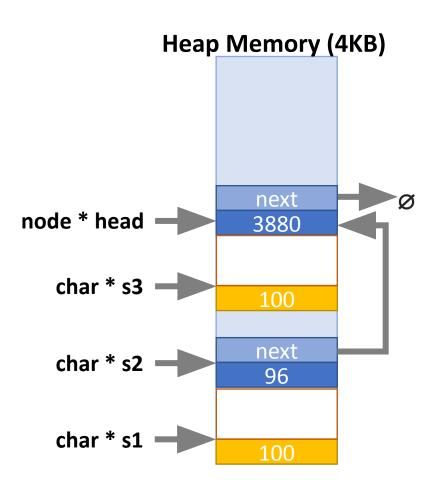


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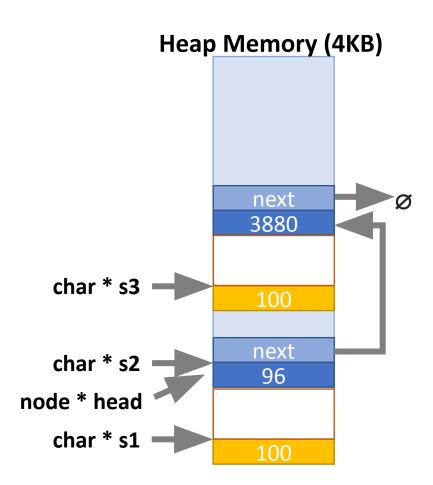


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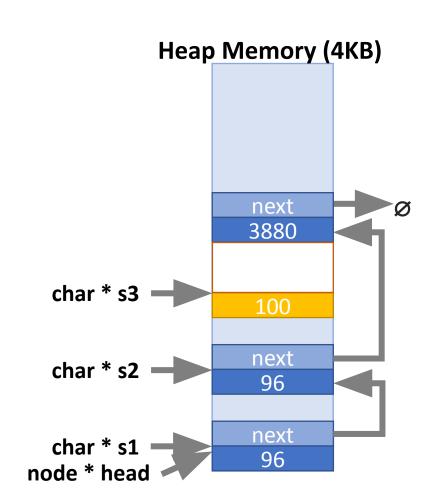


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```
free(s2); // returns 100 + 4 - 8 bytes
free(s1); // returns 100 + 4 - 8 bytes
```

```
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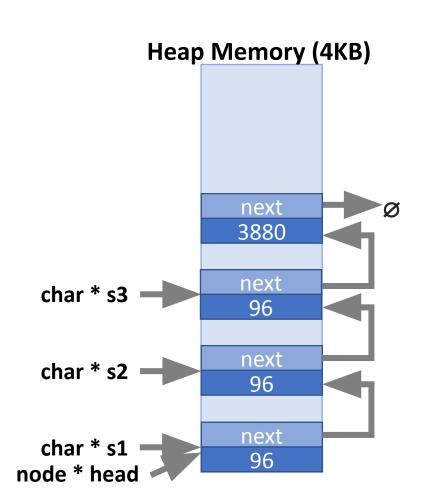


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```
free(s2); // returns 100 + 4 - 8 bytes
free(s1); // returns 100 + 4 - 8 bytes
free(s3); // returns 100 + 4 - 8 bytes
```

```
typedef struct node_t {
    int size;
    struct node_t * next;
} node;

typedef struct header_t {
    int size;
} header;
```



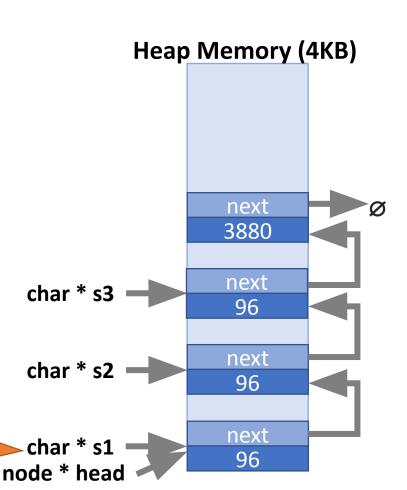
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typedef struct node_t {
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typedef struct h
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These pointers are "dangling": they still point to heap memory, but the pointers are invalid



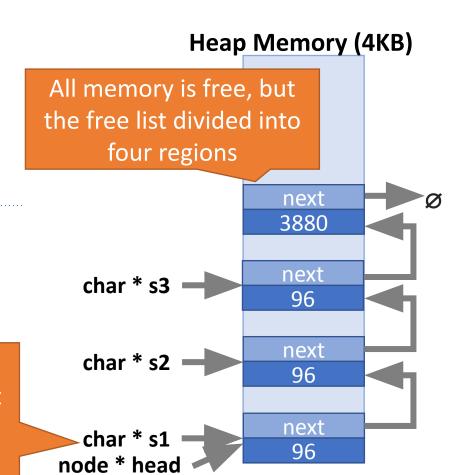
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- The free list is kept in sorted order
 free() is an O(n) operation
- free(s2); // returns 100 + 4 8 bytes free(s1); // returns 100 + 4 - 8 bytes
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typedef struct node_t {
 int size;
 struct node_t * nex
} node;

typedef struct h int size; } header; These pointers are "dangling": they still point to heap memory, but the pointers are invalid

If user calls malloc(4000)

what would happen?

All memory is free, but the free list divided into four regions

char * s3

char * s1

node * head

char * s2 next

next

Heap Memory (4KB)

next 3880

next

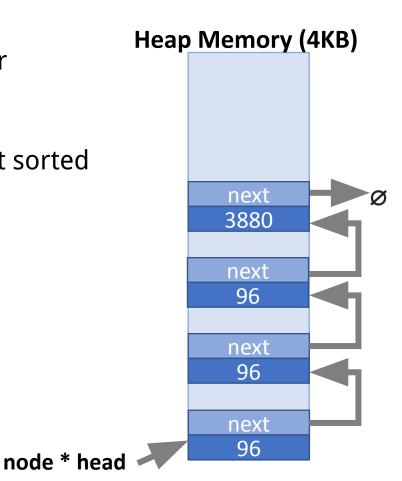
96

96

- Free regions should be merged with their neighbors
 - Helps to minimize fragmentation
 - This would be O(n²) if the list was not sorted

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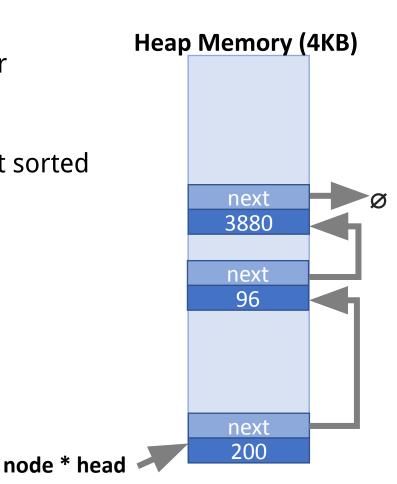
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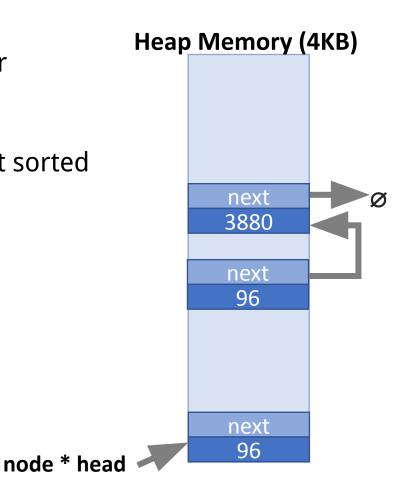
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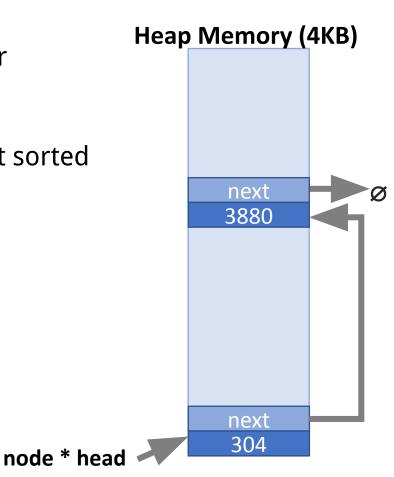
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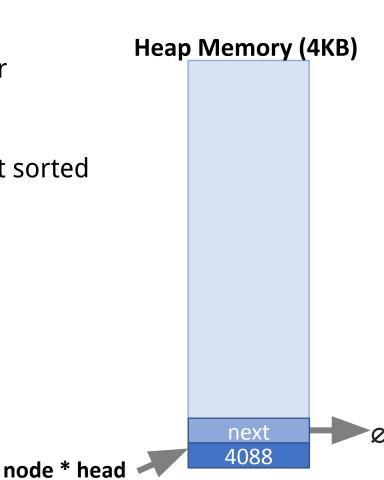
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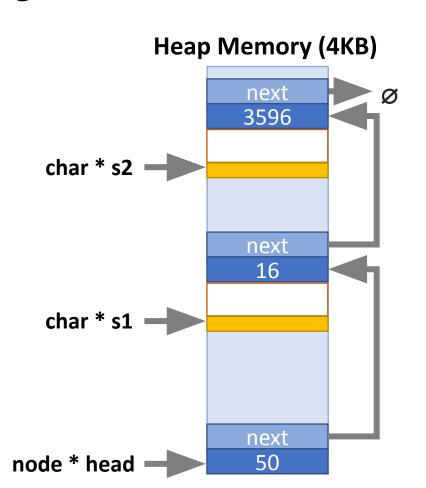
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typedef struct header_t {
    int size;
} header;
```

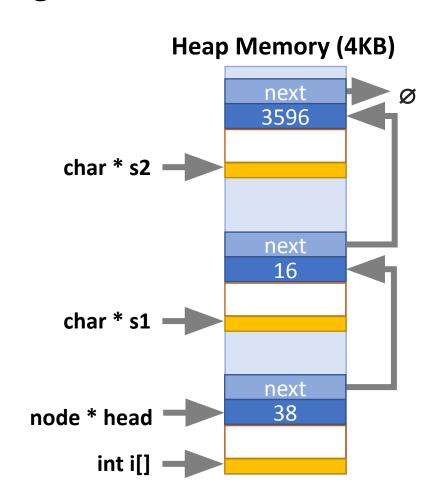


Which free region should be chosen?



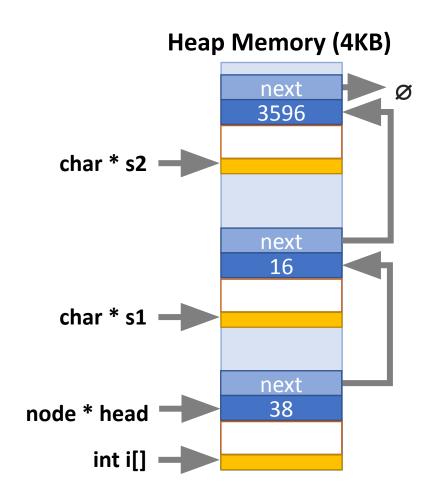
```
int i[] = (int*) malloc(8);
// 8 + 4 = 12 total bytes
```

- Which free region should be chosen?
- Fastest option is First-Fit
 - Split the first free region with >=8 bytes available

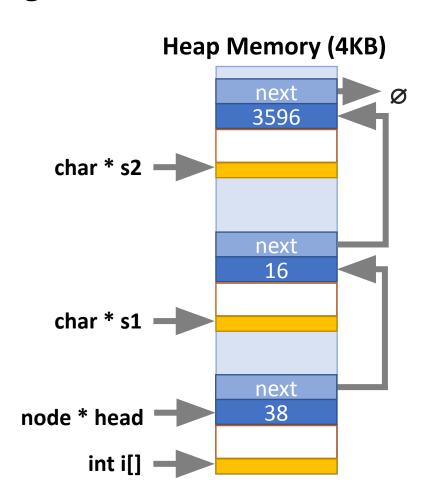


- Which free region should be chosen?
- Fastest option is First-Fit
 - Split the first free region with >=8 bytes available
- Problem with First-Fit?

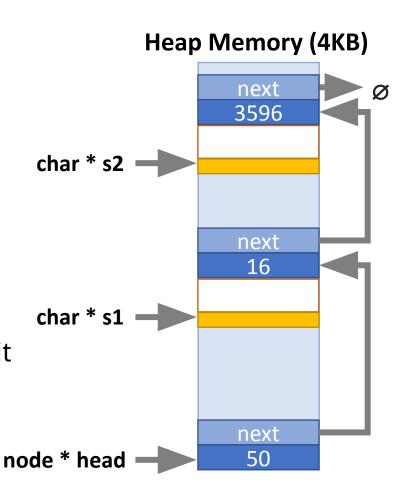
•



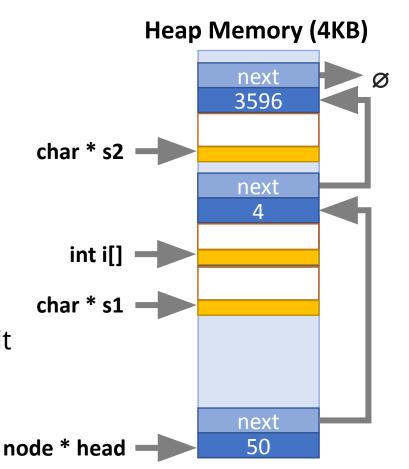
- Which free region should be chosen?
- Fastest option is First-Fit
 - Split the first free region with >=8 bytes available
- Problem with First-Fit?
 - Leads to external fragmentation



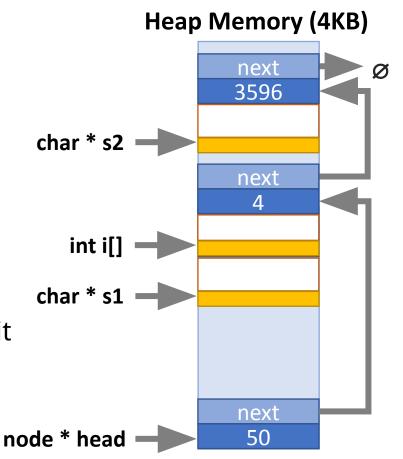
- Which free region should be chosen?
- Second option: Best-Fit
 - Locate the free region with size closest to (and >=) 8 bytes
- Less external fragmentation than First-fit



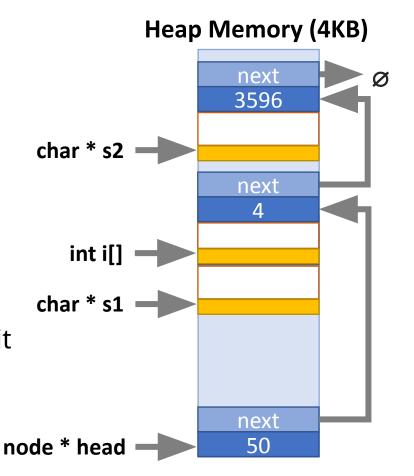
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- Which free region should be chosen?
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 - Locate the free region with size closest to (and >=) 8 bytes
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- Problem with Best-Fit?



- Which free region should be chosen?
- Second option: Best-Fit
 - Locate the free region with size closest to (and >=) 8 bytes
- Less external fragmentation than First-fit
- Problem with Best-Fit?
 - Requires O(n) time



Basic Free List Review

• Singly-linked free list

- List is kept in sorted order
 - free() is an O(n) operation
 - Adjacent free regions are coalesced
- Various strategies for selecting which free region to use
 - First-fit: use the first free region with >= n bytes available
 - Worst-case is O(n), but typically much faster
 - Tends to lead to external fragmentation at the head of the list
 - Best-fit: use the region with size closest (and >=) to *n*
 - Less external fragments than first-fit, but O(n) time

Some clarification for the assignment

- You do not have to know about 4KB granularity allocation happening behind the scene
- You may treat as if sbrk(X) newly allocates X bytes of memory block
- You do not have to split the memory block when reusing it for allocation
- You do not have to merge the memory block during freeing
- You simply need to treat the allocated block from sbrk call as a single memory block and reuse the blocks as they are



Concurrent thinking

- Humans tend to think sequentially
- Thinking about all the potential sequences of events is difficult for humans.
 - https://www.psychologicalscience.org/news/why-humans-are-badat-multitasking.html
- Computers on the other hand, can multi-task quite well.



• What are parallelism and concurrency?

What is the difference?

• Concurrency:

Happening at at the same time, interleaving, sharing resources

- Multiple tasks in progress at the same time
- Dealing with multiple things at once

• Parallelism:

Happening at the same time, progressing independently

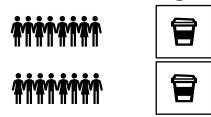
- Multiple tasks executing at the same time
- Doing multiple things at once
- Simultaneous execution

- Concurrency
 - Two queues for one vending machine

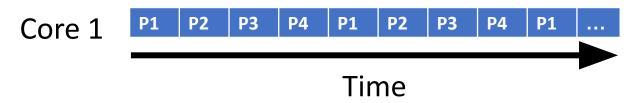




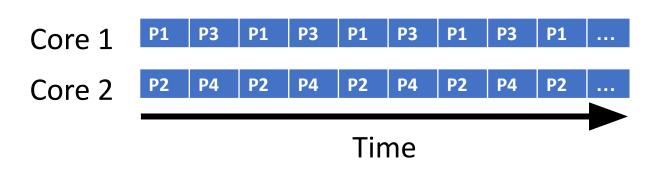
- Parallelism
 - Two queues for two vending machines

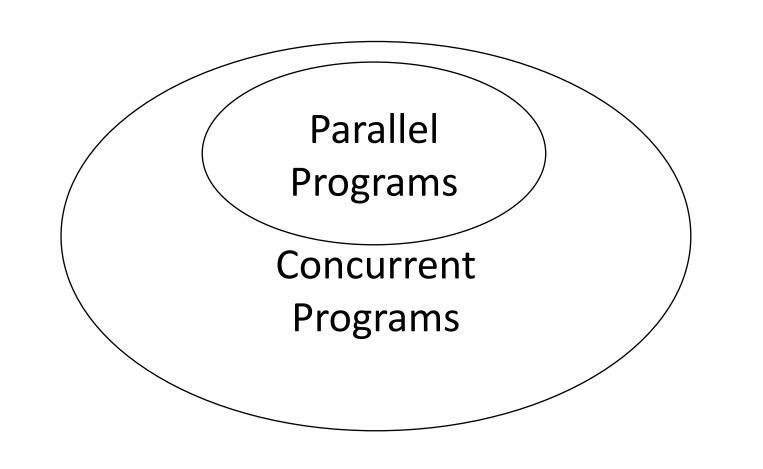


• Concurrent execution on a single-core system:



Parallel execution on a dual-core system:

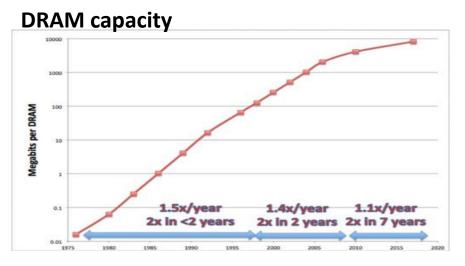


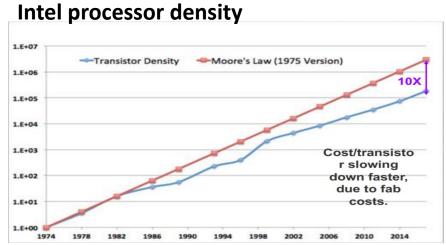




Moore's law is slowing down

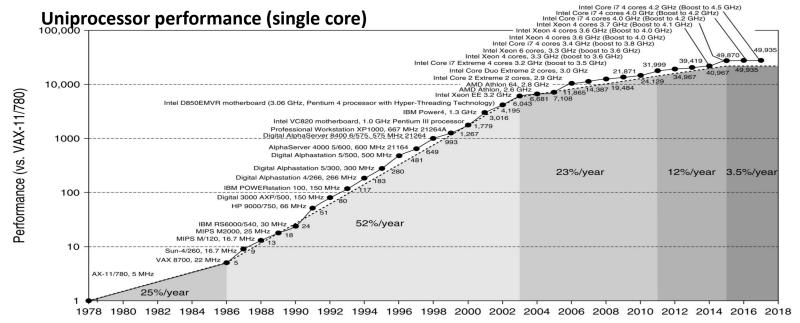
• The number of transistors on IC chips doubles approx. every 2 years





End of Dennard scaling

- Processor frequency increased for free as transistors became smaller
- Transistors became so small that current leakage overheats the chip

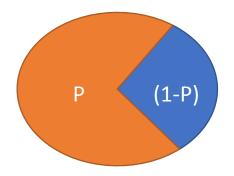


Implications of CPU Evolution

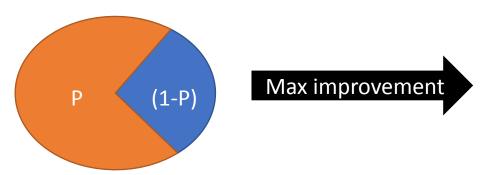
- Increasing transistor count/clock speed
 - Greater number of tasks can be executed concurrently

- Clock speed increases have almost stopped in the past few years
 - Instead, more transistors = more CPU cores
 - More cores = increased opportunity for parallelism

- Speed up does not necessarily apply to the entire system
- Speed up indicates a relative performance improvement
 - Originally spent time to improved time ratio
- Speed up = $\frac{1}{(1-P)+P/S}$
 - (1 P) = the part that was not enhanced
 - P = the part that was enhanced
 - S = speed up of the part that was enhanced



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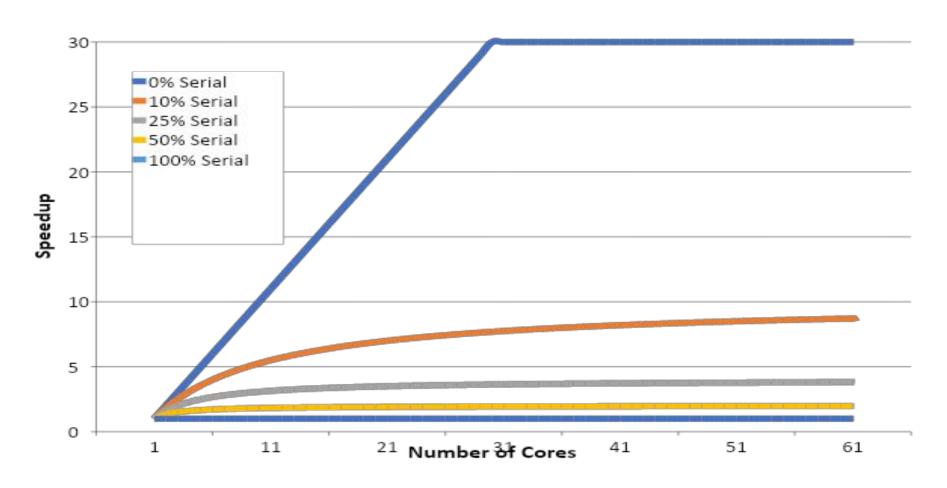


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- Upper bound on performance gains from parallelism
 - If I take a single-threaded task and parallelize it over N CPUs, how much more quickly will my task complete?
- Definition:
 - seq is the fraction of processing time that is processed sequentially
 - par is the fraction of processing time that can be parallelized
 - seq+par = 1
 - N is the number of CPU cores

Speedup =
$$\frac{1}{seq + \frac{par}{N}}$$



Concurrency

• In general, concurrency (like parallelism) is used because it is necessary for a system to function.

- It is also largely motivated by increased performance
 - The potential for more tasks to happen at once can thus increases performance (especially, if we have multiple cores on our machine)

Concurrency

• In general, concurrency (like parallelism) is used because it is necessary for a system to function.

- It is also largely motivated by increased performance
 - The potential for more tasks to happen at once can thus increases performance (especially, if we have multiple cores on our machine)

Concurrency comes with some caveats however (next slide!)

Bad Concurrency = Data Race

• When two (or more) processes contending for one shared resource.



Bad Concurrency = Data Race

• When two (or more) processes contending for one shared resource.



Data race is not always as obvious...(1/4)

- Imagine you check your fridge and find there is no milk
 - So you run to the store



Data race is not always as obvious...(2/4)

- Imagine you check your fridge and find there is no milk
 - So you run to the store
- Then moments later your roommate checks the fridge and finds it is empty
 - So they run to the store



Data race is not always as obvious...(3/4)

- Imagine you check your fridge and find there is no milk
 - So you run to the store
- Then moments later your roommate checks the fridge and finds it is empty
 - So they run to the store
- Roommate # 3 comes and notices the same





Data race is not always as obvious...(4/4)

 You get the idea when you then find out you have 3 times as much milk as your house needs when everyone returns.



Bad Concurrency = Deadlock

• Grid lock in a traffic jam

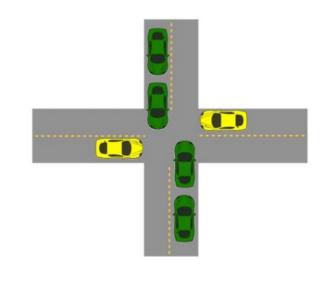
• Each car prevents others from going through a shared resource (the intersection).

 (One car needs a piece of the intersection in order to move forward)



Bad Concurrency = Starvation

- Imagine a constant stream of green cars
- Progress is still being made by the green cars
- The yellow cars can never make progress to get across the street.
 - They are resource starved of a shared resource (again, they cannot cross the intersection)



Concurrent Programming needs some extra care

- Races
 - Outcome depends on the arbitrary scheduling decisions
 - e.g. Who gets the last seat on the airplane.
- Deadlock: Improper resource allocation prevents forward progress
 - e.g. traffic gridlock
- Starvation/Fairness: External events and/or scheduling decisions can prevent sub-task progress
 - e.g. Someone jumping in front of you in line
- But regardless, concurrent programming is important and necessary to get the most out of current processor architectures!

A Few Approaches to Concurrency

- Process-Based
 - Fork() different processes
 - Each process has its own private address space
- Event-Based
 - Programmer manually interleaves multiple logical flows and polls for events
 - All flows share the same address space
 - Uses technique called I/O multiplexing
- Thread-based (Today's focus)
 - Kernel automatically interleaves multiple logical flows
 - Each flow shares the same address space
 - Hybrid of process-based and event-based.



Problems with Processes

• Process creation is heavyweight (i.e. slow)

• IPC mechanisms are cumbersome

Problems with Processes

- Process creation is heavyweight (i.e. slow)
 - Space must be allocated for the new process
 - fork() copies all state of the parent to the child

IPC mechanisms are cumbersome

Problems with Processes

- Process creation is heavyweight (i.e. slow)
 - Space must be allocated for the new process
 - fork() copies all state of the parent to the child

- IPC mechanisms are cumbersome
 - Difficult to use fine-grained synchronization
 - Message passing is slow
 - Each message may have to go through the kernel

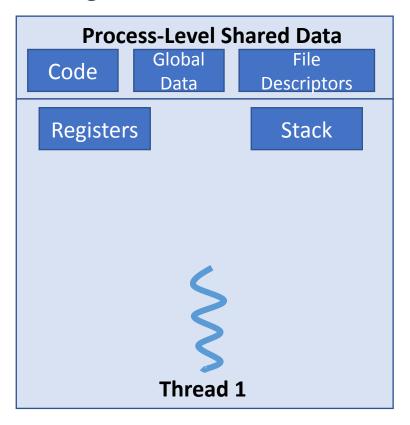
Threads

Light-weight processes that share the same memory and state

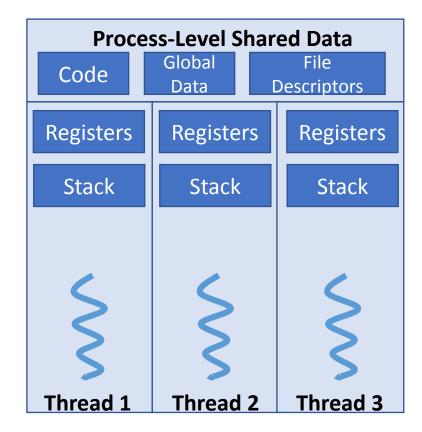
Every process has at least one thread

- Benefits:
 - Resource sharing, no need for IPC
 - Economy: faster to create, faster to context switch
 - Scalability: simple to take advantage of multi-core CPUs

Single-Threaded Process

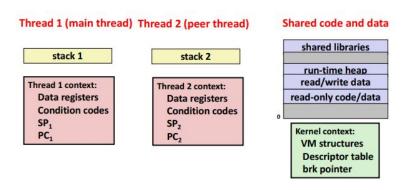


Multi-Threaded Process



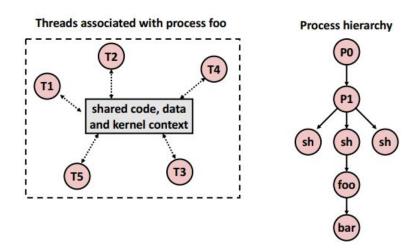
A Process can have Multiple Threads

- Each thread shares the same code, data, and kernel context
- A thread has its own thread id (TID)
- A thread has its own logical control flow (no need to exec)
- A thread has its own stack for local variables



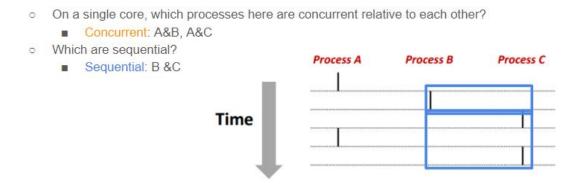
View of Threads

- Threads associated with a process form a "pool" of peers
 - Unlike processes (on the right) which form a tree hierarchy (i.e. parent/child relationship)



Remember this diagram on Concurrent Processes?

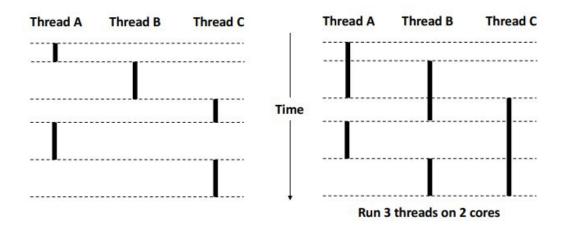
 We looked at multiple processes running on a single core (next slide for multiple cores)



Concurrent Thread (or Process) Execution

- Single Core Process
 - Simulate parallelism by time slicing

- Multi-Core Processor
 - Can have true parallelism



Threads vs Processes

- Similarities
 - Each has its own logical control flow
 - Each can run concurrently with others (possibly on different cores if available)
 - Each is context switched
- Differences
 - Threads share all code and data (except local stacks)
 - Processes (typically) do not (i.e. fork makes a copy)
 - Threads are usually less expensive than managing processes
 - Process control is twice as expensive as thread control
 - Linux estimates
 - ~20k cycles to create and reap a process
 - ~10k cycles to create and reap a thread

Pthreads (POSIX Threads)

POSIX Pthreads

- POSIX
 - Portable Operating System Interface

- POSIX standard API for thread creation
 - IEEE 1003.1c
 - Specification, not implementation
 - Defines the API and the expected behavior
 - ... but not how it should be implemented
- Implementation is system dependent
 - On some platforms, user-level threads
 - On others, maps to kernel-level threads

Posix Threads API (PThreads Interface)

- Sample functions
 - Creating and reaping threads
 - pthread_create()
 - pthread_join()
 - Determining thread ID
 - pthread_self()
 - Terminating threads
 - pthread_cancel()
 - pthread_exit()
 - exit() Terminates all threads
 - return terminates current thread
 - Synchronizing access to shared variables
 - pthread_mutex_init (mutual exclusion lock)
 - pthread_mutex_lock and pthread_mutex_unlock

Pthread examples

Hello Thread

- The thread that is "launched" is a function in the program
 - This is done when the thread is created
 - Different attributes can be sent to threads (in this case the first NULL)
 - Arguments can also be passed to the function (second NULL)

```
1 // Compile with:
 3 // clang -lpthread thread1.c -o thread1
 5 #include <stdio.h>
 6 #include <stdlib.h>
7 #include <pthread.h>
9 // Thread with variable arguments
10 void *thread(void *vargp){
11
           printf("Hello from thread\n");
12
           return NULL;
13 }
14
15 int main(){
16
           // Store our Pthread ID
           pthread t tid;
17
18
           // Create and execute the thread
19
           pthread_create(&tid, NULL, thread, NULL);
20
           // Wait in 'main' thread until thread executes
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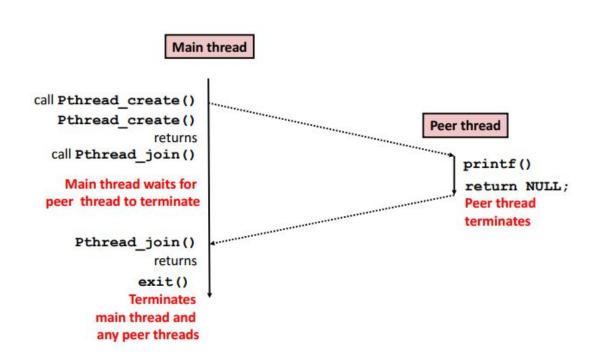
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 - Arguments can also be passed to the function (second NULL)
- pthread_join is the equivalent to "wait" for threads
- What if we don't call join?

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           pthread join(tid, NULL);
22
           // end program
23
           return 0;
24 }
```

Visual execution of "Hello Thread"



Store 10 thread ids.

```
1 // Compile with:
 2 //
 3 // clang -lpthread thread2.c -o thread2
 4 //
 5 #include <stdio.h>
 6 #include <stdlib.h>
 7 #include <pthread.h>
 9 #define NTHREADS 10
11 // Thread with variable arguments
12 void *thread(void *vargp){
13
           printf("Hello from thread %ld\n", pthread self());
14
           return NULL;
15 }
16
17 int main(){
           // Store our Pthread ID
18
19
           pthread t tids[NTHREADS];
           printf("Main thread id: %Id\n",pthread self());
20
21
           // Create and execute multiple threads
           for(int i=0; i < NTHREADS; ++i){</pre>
22
                   pthread create(&tids[i], NULL, thread, NULL);
23
24
25
           // Make main wait for each thread
26
           for(int i=0; i < NTHREADS; ++i){</pre>
27
                   pthread join(tids[i], NULL);
28
29
           printf("Main thread returns: %ld\n",pthread_self());
31
           // end program
32
           return 0;
33 }
```

- Store 10 thread ids.
- Launch 10 threads

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1 // Compile with:
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```

- Store 10 thread ids.
- Launch 10 threads
- Print out their thread ids to show which thread is executing.

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1 // Compile with:
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27
                   pthread join(tids[i], NULL);
28
           printf("Main thread returns: %ld\n",pthread self());
31
           // end program
32
           return 0;
33 }
```

- Store 10 thread ids.
- Launch 10 threads
- Print out their thread ids to show which thread is executing.
- Join all of our threads with the main thread
 - (i.e. make the main thread wait until all 10 threads have executed.)

```
1 // Compile with:
 2 //
 3 // clang -lpthread thread2.c -o thread2
 5 #include <stdio.h>
 6 #include <stdlib.h>
 7 #include <pthread.h>
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29
30
           printf("Main thread returns: %ld\n",pthread self());
31
           // end program
32
           return 0;
33 }
```

New Program

```
1 // Compile with:
 2 //
 3 // clang -lpthread thread3.c -o thread3
 4 //
 5 #include <stdio.h>
 6 #include <stdlib.h>
 7 #include <pthread.h>
   #define NTHREADS 10000
11 int counter = 0;
13 // Thread with variable arguments
14 void *thread(void *vargp){
           counter = counter +1;
16
           return NULL:
19 int main(){
20
           // Store our Pthread ID
           pthread t tids[NTHREADS];
           printf("Counter starts at: %d\n",counter);
23
           // Create and execute multiple threads
24
           for(int i=0; i < NTHREADS; ++i){</pre>
25
                   pthread create(&tids[i], NULL, thread, NULL);
26
27
           // Create and execute multiple threads
28
           for(int i=0; i < NTHREADS; ++i){</pre>
                   pthread join(tids[i], NULL);
30
31
32
           printf("Final Counter value: %d\n",counter);
33
           // end program
34
           return 0;
35 }
```

- *New Program*
- This time launch 10000 threads

```
1 // Compile with:
 2 //
 3 // clang -lpthread thread3.c -o thread3
 4 //
 5 #include <stdio.h>
 6 #include <stdlib.h>
 7 #include <pthread.h>
 9 #define NTHREADS 10000
11 int counter = 0;
13 // Thread with variable arguments
14 void *thread(void *vargp){
           counter = counter +1;
15
16
           return NULL:
17 }
18
19 int main(){
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           printf("Counter starts at: %d\n".counter):
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                   pthread create(&tids[i], NULL, thread, NULL);
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28
           for(int i=0; i < NTHREADS; ++i){</pre>
                   pthread join(tids[i], NULL);
30
31
32
           printf("Final Counter value: %d\n",counter);
33
           // end program
34
           return 0;
35 }
```

- This time launch 10000 threads
- counter is shared between threads
- What is wrong with this program?

```
1 // Compile with:
 3 // clang -lpthread thread3.c -o thread3
 5 #include <stdio.h>
 6 #include <stdlib.h>
 7 #include <pthread.h>
 9 #define NTHREADS 10000
11 int counter = 0;
13 // Thread with variable arguments
14 void *thread(void *vargp){
           counter = counter +1;
16
           return NULL:
17 }
18
19 int main(){
           // Store our Pthread ID
           pthread t tids[NTHREADS];
           printf("Counter starts at: %d\n",counter);
           // Create and execute multiple threads
           for(int i=0; i < NTHREADS; ++i){</pre>
                   pthread create(&tids[i], NULL, thread, NULL);
26
27
           // Create and execute multiple threads
           for(int i=0; i < NTHREADS; ++i){</pre>
                   pthread join(tids[i], NULL);
30
31
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           printf("Final Counter value: %d\n",counter);
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```

- This time launch 10000 threads
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           printf("Final Counter value: %d\n",counter);
33
          // end program
34
           return 0;
35 }
```

- This time launch 10000 threads
- counter is shared between threads
- What is wrong with this program?
- What is the final output?

```
Counter starts at: 0
Final Counter value: 9998
-bash-4.2$ ./thread3
Counter starts at: 0
Final Counter value: 9998
-bash-4.2$ ./thread3
Counter starts at: 0
Final Counter value: 9997
-bash-4.2$ ./thread3
Counter starts at: 0
Final Counter value: 9999
-bash-4.2$ ./thread3
Counter starts at: 0
Final Counter value: 9999
-bash-4.2$ ./thread3
Counter starts at: 0
Final Counter value: 9999
```

```
1 // Compile with:
 3 // clang -lpthread thread3.c -o thread3
 5 #include <stdio.h>
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           counter = counter +1;
16
           return NULL:
17 }
18
19 int main(){
           // Store our Pthread ID
           pthread t tids[NTHREADS];
22
           printf("Counter starts at: %d\n",counter);
           // Create and execute multiple threads
24
           for(int i=0; i < NTHREADS; ++i){</pre>
                   pthread create(&tids[i], NULL, thread, NULL);
26
27
           // Create and execute multiple threads
           for(int i=0; i < NTHREADS; ++i){</pre>
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                   pthread join(tids[i], NULL);
30
31
32
           printf("Final Counter value: %d\n",counter);
33
           // end program
34
           return 0;
35 }
```

What was happening?

| Thread 1 (counter = counter + 1) | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Thread 2 (counter = counter + 1) |
| Read "counter": 10 | |
| | Read "counter": 10 |
| Add 1 to "counter": 11 | Add 1 to "counter": 11 |
| Write to "counter": 11 | Write to "counter": 11 |

What was happening?

Thread 1 (counter = counter + 1)

Read "counter": 11

Add 1 to "counter": 12 Write to "counter": 12

Thread 3 (counter = counter + 1)

Read "counter": 12

Add 1 to "counter": 13

Write to "counter": 13

Thread 2 (counter = counter + 1)

Read "counter": 11

Add 1 to "counter": 12

Write to "counter": 12

Synchronization of Threads

- Shared variables are thus handy for moving around data
- If we do not share properly, we can have synchronization errors!
 - There is a solution however!
 - (recap below)



Counter starts at: 0
Final Counter value: 9998
-bash-4.2\$./thread3
Counter starts at: 0
Final Counter value: 9998
-bash-4.2\$./thread3
Counter starts at: 0
Final Counter value: 9997
-bash-4.2\$./thread3
Counter starts at: 0
Final Counter value: 9999
-bash-4.2\$./thread3
Counter starts at: 0
Final Counter value: 9999
-bash-4.2\$./thread3
Counter starts at: 0
Final Counter value: 9997

Locks

- If multiple entities tries to acquire the lock, only one will succeed
 - Lock cannot be shared
- If someone is holding the lock others have to wait until the lock holder unlocks



 Lock can project shared variables or code regions that should not be executed concurrently

Example with lock

Included a pthread_mutex_lock

```
1 // Compile with:
 2 // clang -lpthread thread4.c -o thread4
 3 // This program fixes a problem with thread3.c
 4 Winclude <stdio.h>
 5 #include <stdlib.h>
 6 #include <pthread.h>
 8 #define NTHREADS 10000
10 int counter = 0:
   pthread mutex t mutex1 = PTHREAD MUTEX INITIALIZER;
13 // Thread with variable arguments
14 void *thread(void *vargp){
           pthread mutex lock(&mutex1);
15
16
                   counter = counter +1:
17
           pthread mutex unlock(&mutex1);
18
           return NULL;
19 }
20
21 int main(){
           // Store our Pthread ID
           pthread t tids[NTHREADS];
24
           printf("Counter starts at: %d\n",counter);
25
           // Create and execute multiple threads
26
           for(int i=0; i < NTHREADS; ++i){</pre>
                   pthread create(&tids[i], NULL, thread, NULL);
28
29
           // Create and execute multiple threads
30
31
           for(int i=0; i < NTHREADS; ++i){</pre>
32
                   pthread join(tids[i], NULL);
33
34
           printf("Final Counter value: %d\n",counter);
35
           // end program
36
           return 0;
37 }
```

Example with lock

- Included a pthread_mutex_lock
- lock and unlock protects
- Locks in other words enforce, that we have exclusive access to a region of code.

```
1 // Compile with:
 2 // clang -lpthread thread4.c -o thread4
 3 // This program fixes a problem with thread3.c
 4 #include <stdio.h>
 5 #include <stdlib.h>
 6 #include <pthread.h>
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           for(int i=0; i < NTHREADS; ++i){</pre>
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                   pthread join(tids[i], NULL);
33
34
           printf("Final Counter value: %d\n",counter);
35
           // end program
36
           return 0;
37 }
```

What was happening?

```
Thread 1 (counter = counter + 1)
                                            Thread 2 (counter = counter + 1)
pthread_mutex_lock
Read "counter": 10
                                            pthread_mutex_lock
                                            // Lock is held by thread 1 so
                                            // thread 2 has to wait until
                                            // thread 1 unlocks
Add 1 to "counter": 11
                                            // Now acquires the lock and runs
                                            Read "counter": 10
Write to "counter": 11
                                            Add 1 to "counter": 11
pthread_mutex_unlock
                                            Write to "counter": 11
                                            pthred mutex unlock
```

Example with lock

- Included a pthread_mutex_lock
- lock and unlock protect
- Locks in other words enforce, that we have exclusive access to a region of code.

```
mike:8$ gcc thread4.c -o thread4 -lpthread
mike:8$ ./thread4
Counter starts at: 0
Final Counter value: 10000
mike:8$ ./thread4
Counter starts at: 0
Final Counter value: 10000
mike:8$ ./thread4
Counter starts at: 0
Final Counter value: 10000
mike:8$ ./thread4
Counter starts at: 0
Final Counter value: 10000
mike:8$ ./thread4
Counter starts at: 0
^[[AFinal Counter value 10000
```

```
1 // Compile with:
 2 // clang -lpthread thread4.c -o thread4
 3 // This program fixes a problem with thread3.c
 4 #include <stdio.h>
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 6 #include <pthread.h>
 8 #define NTHREADS 10000
10 int counter = 0:
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                   pthread join(tids[i], NULL);
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           printf("Final Counter value: %d\n",counter);
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           // end program
           return 0;
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37 }
```

Posix Threads API (PThreads Interface)

- Sample functions
 - Creating and reaping threads
 - pthread_create()
 - pthread_join()
 - Determining thread ID
 - pthread_self()
 - Terminating threads
 - pthread_cancel()
 - pthread_exit()
 - exit() Terminates all threads
 - return terminates current thread
 - Synchronizing access to shared variables
 - pthread_mutex_init
 - pthread_mutex_lock and pthread_mutex_unlock