Signals (Chapter 10)

Software Interrupts

"Most nontrivial application programs need to deal with signals"

asynchronous events

Version 7 signals -- Not reliable
   Signal could "get lost"

BSD -- changes for reliable signals
   Changes were incompatible

POSIX -- also their concept of signals
Signal Basics

Signal Names:
- SIGINT - interrupt program
- SIGSEGV - segmentation violation
- SIGTSTP - stop signal from terminal
- SIGCHLD - child status has changed
- man 7 signal

Signal causes:
- Terminal generated
  - ^C - often SIGINT
  - ^Z - often SIGTSTP
- Hardware generated
  - Divide by zero - SIGFPE (example divzero.c)
  - Bad pointer ref - SIGSEGV
  - Unaligned access - SIGBUS (example buserr.c)
More Signal causes:

- kill system call
  - `int kill(pid_t pid, int sig);`
  - `pid > 0` => to that process
  - `pid = 0` => to process group of sender
  - `pid = -1` => All processes (except sender)
    - `root` -> all but system processes
    - `!root` -> all with same uid
  - `root` can signal any process
  - `!root` can only signal process with same uid

- kill user level command
  - Sometimes built into shells (bash)
  - Same as above
More Signal causes:

Other indications
- SIGURG -- Network related
- SIGPIPE -- Write to a pipe with no reader
- SIGALRM -- "Alarm Clock" went off
- SIGCHLD -- Child change of status
What happens at "signal time"?

Signal gets "Delivered" to the process

Actions ...

☐ Ignore the signal -- nothings happens
   ☐ (Can’t ignore SIGKILL and SIGSTOP)

☐ Catch the signal
   ☐ Starts a designated function
   ☐ (Can’t catch SIGKILL and SIGSTOP)

☐ Default action
   ☐ May ignore it
   ☐ May terminate the process
   ☐ May dump core and terminate process

Again ... look at "man 7 signal"
How to use:

Simple version (unreliable):

```c
void (*signal(int sig, void (*func)(int);))(int)
```

- `func` -> function name  OR
  - SIG_DFL
  - SIG_IGN
- `sig` -> Signal Name
- `return` -> previous function pointer (or SIG_DFL or SIG_IGN)

Example: sig.c
Other issues:

system calls may be interrupted by signals
EINTR is an error code for an interrupted system call

Other signal related calls
  - raise(3)
  - alarm(3) / setitimer(2)
  - pause(3) / sigsuspend(2)
  - abort(3)

Use of system calls in handler!
  - Save errno at least!
  - Don’t use routines like malloc!
  - How about printf?
    - Not a good idea!
"Advanced" signal interface

```c
#include <signal.h>
struct sigaction {
    void     (*sa_handler)(int);
    sigset_t sa_mask;
    int     sa_flags;
};

int sigaction(int sig, const struct sigaction *act, struct sigaction *oact);
```

- `sa_mask` -- a "set" of signals to "block" during handler running.
- Routines to make signal sets:
  - `sigemptyset`, `sigfillset`, `sigaddset`, `sigdelset`, `sigismember`
- `sa_flags` -- Controls other things
  - `SA_RESTART` -- restart system calls that can be restarted
  - Others ... not that important here
Example: sigaction.c

int sigprocmask(int how, const sigset_t *set, sigset_t *oset);
  □ Block/unblock the current set of signals from being delivered.

int sigpending(sigset_t *set);
  □ Returns set of signals waiting (blocked) to be delivered

int sigsuspend(const sigset_t *sigmask);
  □ Wait for a signal to be delivered. sigmask normally empty.

sigsetjmp / siglongjmp
  □ setjmp and longjmp that deals with signals.
Signal Set operations

From "man sigsetops"

#include <signal.h>

int sigemptyset(sigset_t *set);

int sigfillset(sigset_t *set);

int sigaddset(sigset_t *set, int signo);

int sigdelset(sigset_t *set, int signo);

int sigismember(sigset_t *set, int signo);