```
int freq[MAXPAROLA]; /* vettore di contato
delle frequenze delle lunghezze delle parol
```

#### **Processes**

# **Introduction to Linux processes**

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# **Algorithms, Programs, and Processes**

## Algorithm

Logical process which, in a finite number of steps, allows the resolution of a problem

### Program

- Formalization of an algorithm by means of a programming language
- Passive entity, i.e., file (executable) in the hard disk

#### Process

- Abstraction of a running program
- Active entity
  - Sequence of operations performed by a program running on a given set of data

# Sequential and concurrent processes

### Sequential execution

> Actions are executed one **after** the other

- A new action begins only after the termination of the previous one
- They are totally ordered

#### Deterministic behavior

- Given the same input, the output produced is always the same, it does not depend on
  - The time of execution
  - The speed of execution
  - The number of active processes on the same system

Sequential actions

Processing Output

P1

**I1** 

01

12

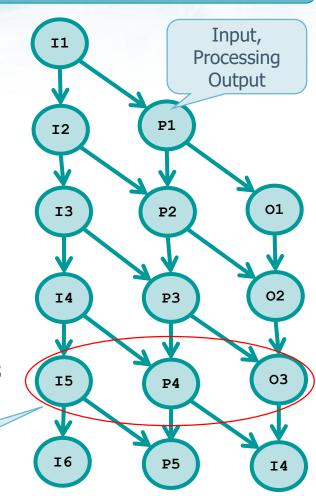
P2

02

# Sequential and concurrent processes

#### Concurrent execution

- More than one action can be executed at the **same** time
  - There is not order relation
  - Non deterministic behavior
- > Real concurrency
  - on multi-processor or multicore systems
- > Pseudo-concurrency
  - on mono-processor systems



Concurrent actions

#### **Processes**

## Several processes are started at bootstrap

Automatic

Started at bootstrap, terminated at shut-down. Execute support activities.

- Daemon Processes
- E-mail applications
- Various control activities, virus scan and others
- **.**...

### On user request

- Line printer management
- WEB server (with parallel requests for outside)
- ...

#### **Processes**

- Process identity and process control
  - ID & system calls: pid, getpid, getppid, etc.
- Process creation
  - The creating process is called the parent process, the process created is called the child process
  - It is possible to create a **process tree**.
  - System calls: fork, exec, system, etc.
- Process synchronization and termination
  - System calls: wait, waitpid, exit.

#### **Process identifier**

- Every process has a unique identifier
  - > PID or Process Identifier
- The PID is a non negative integer
  - Although a PID is unique, UNIX reuses the numbers of terminated processes.
  - > PID can be used by concurrent processes for creating unique objects, or temporary filenames
    - For example :
       sprintf(filename, "file-%d" getpid());
      creates a different process-dependent filename

### **Process identification**

#### Some identifiers are reserved.

- ➤ The first process, PID=0, is a system process
  - The swapper, which is responsible for memory management and process scheduling
  - Executed at the kernel level
- ➤ The second process, PID=1, is **init** a daemon
  - invoked at the end of the bootstrap
  - executed at user level
  - with super-user privileges
  - Becomes the parent of each orphan process, i.e., of a child of a parent process already terminated

Recent OS: "jobs started are not reparented to PID1 (init), but to a custom init -user, owned by the same user of the process ..."

### **Process identification**

```
#include <unistd.h>

pid_t getpid();  // Process ID
pid_t getppid();  // Parent Process ID

uid_t getuid();  // Real user ID
uid_t geteuid();  // Effective ID (the one of sudo cmd)

gid_t getgid();  // Real group ID
gid_t getegid();  // Effective group ID
```

- In addition to the PID, there are other identifiers related to a process
- getpid returns the identifier of the calling process
- \* getppid returns the identifier of the parent process

  There is no system call to obtain the PID of a child

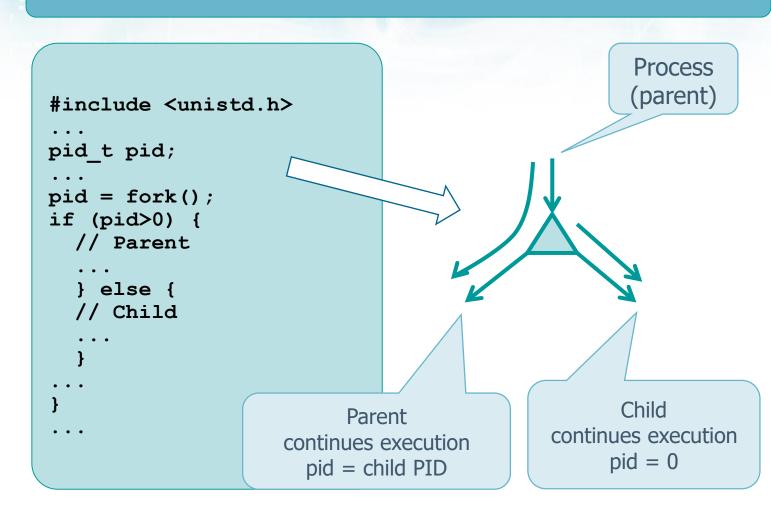
- System call fork () creates a new child process
  - The child is a copy of the parent excluding the Process ID (PID) returned by fork
    - The parent process receives the child PID
      - A process may have more than one child that can identify on the basis of its PID
    - The child process receives the value 0
      - It can identify its parent by means of the system call getppid
  - Fork is issued once in the parent process, but returns in two different processes, and returns different values to the parent, and to the child.

```
#include <unistd.h>
pid_t fork (void);
Variants: vfork, rfork, clone
```

#### Returned values

- > If fork returns without error
  - Child PID in the parent process
  - Zero in the child process
- Fork returns -1 in case of error
  - Normally because a limit on the number of allowed process has been reached

```
Process
#include <unistd.h>
                                                     (parent)
pid t pid;
pid = fork();
switch (pid) {
  case -1:
    // Fork failure
    exit (1);
  case 0:
    // Child
  default:
    // Parent
                                                    Child
                           Parent
                                              continues execution
                     continues execution
                                                   pid = 0
                       pid = child PID
```



# **Address space**



- Parent and child share their code, but they have a different PCB
- They also share the value of the data at the time of fork.
- Parent and child may then change the data values independently

## **Example**

- Write a concurrent C program that allows
  - Creating a child process
  - Terminating the parent process before the child process
  - Or terminating the child process before the parent process
    The system call

unsigned int sleep (unsigned int sec)
places the process in wait for (at least) sec seconds

Output in both cases the Process Identifier of the terminating process and the Process Identifier of its parent.

Who is the parent's parent?

Who is the child's parent if the parent terminates before the child?

## **Example**

```
tC = atoi (argv[1]);
                                   tP = atoi (argv[2]);
#include <unistd.h>
printf ("Main :
                                   ");
printf ("PID=%d; My parent PID=%d\n",
  getpid(), getppid());
pid = fork();
                                                   Child
if (pid == 0) {
  sleep (tC);
 printf ("Child : PIDreturned=%d ", pid);
  printf ("PID=%d; My parent PID=%d\n",
    getpid(), getppid());
                                                  Parent
} else {
  sleep (tP);
  printf ("Parent: PIDreturned=%d ", pid);
  printf ("PID=%d; My parent PID=%d\n",
    getpid(), getppid());
```

## **Example**

> ps

PID TTY TIME CMD

2088 pts/10 00:00:00 bash 2760 pts/10 00:00:00 ps Shell status (ps: prints process status)

Child waits 2 secs Parent waits 5 secs

> ./u04s01e03-fork 2 5

Main : PID=2813; My parent PID=2088

Child: PIDreturned=0 PID=2814; My parent PID=2813

Parent: PIDreturned=2814 PID=2813; My parent PID=2088

Notice increasing PID values

Child waits 5 secs parent waits 2 secs

> ./u04s01e03-fork 5 2

Main: PID=2815; My parent PID=2088

Parent: PIDreturned=2816 PID=2815; My parent PID=2088

> Child : PIDreturned=0 PID=2816; My parent PID=1

init process PID

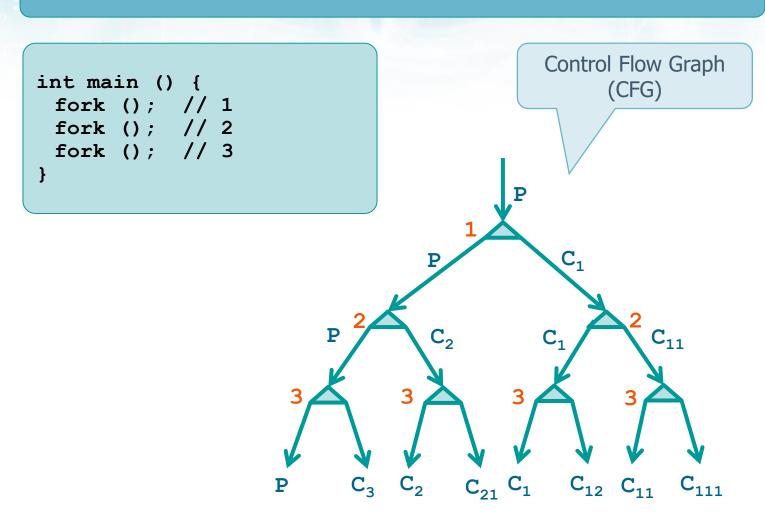
#### **Exercise**

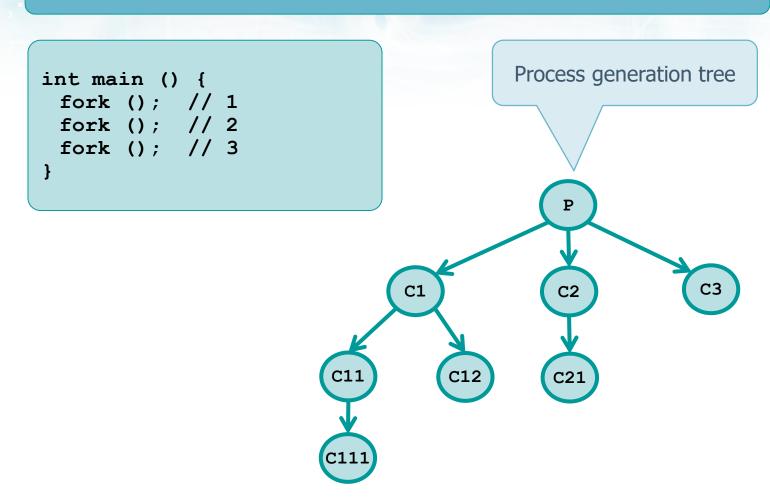
- Given the following program, draw its
  - Control Flow Graph, CFG
  - > Process generation graph

```
int main () {
  /* fork a child process */
  fork();

  /* fork another child process */
  fork();

  /* fork a last one */
  fork();
}
```

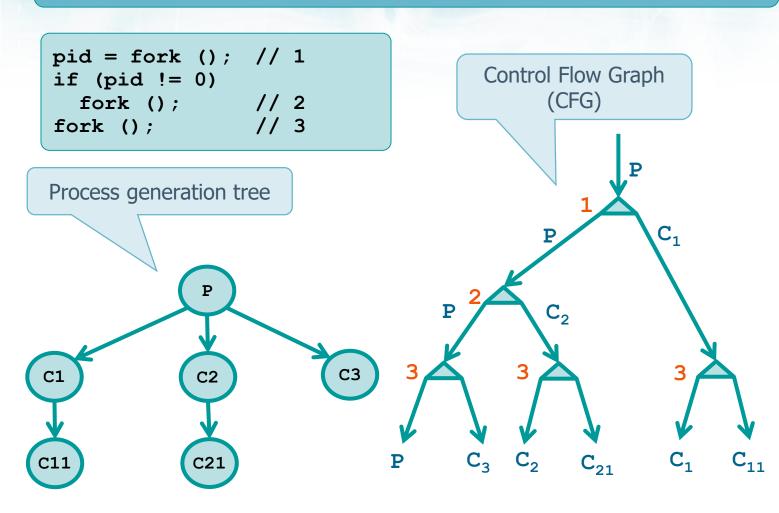




### **Exercise**

- Given the following program, draw its
  - Control Flow Graph, CFG
  - > Process generation graph

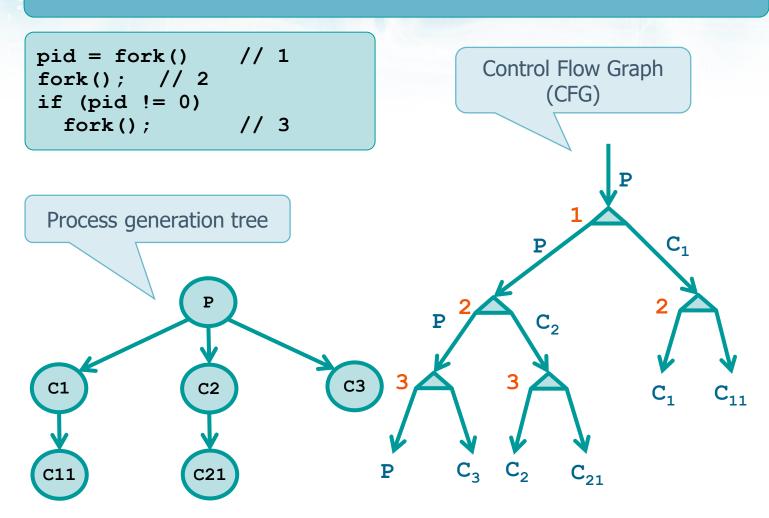
```
pid = fork ();  /* call #1 */
if (pid != 0)
  fork ();  /* call #2 */
fork ();  /* call #3 */
```



### **Exercise**

- Given the following program, draw its
  - Control Flow Graph, CFG
  - > Process generation graph

```
pid = fork() /* call #1 */
fork(); /* call #2 */
if (pid != 0)
  fork(); /* call #3 */
```



#### **Exercise**

- Given the following program, draw its
  - Control Flow Graph, CFG
  - Process generation graph

```
Control Flow Graph
for (i=0; i<2; i++) {
                                                    (CFG)
  printf("i: %d \n", i);
  if (fork()) // 1
    fork(); // 2
      Possible output: 0 1 1 1
                        i=0
                        i=1
```

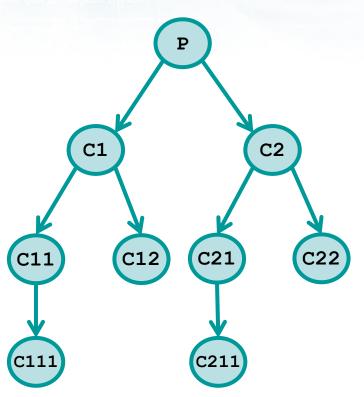
```
for (i=0; i<2; i++) {
                                            Process generation tree
  printf("i: %d \n", i);
  if (fork()) // 1
    fork(); // 2
      Possible output: 0 1 1 1
```

### **Exercise**

Given the following program, report the output and the process generation tree

```
int main() {
 int a, b=5, c;
 a = fork(); /* #1 */
 if (a) {
    a = b; c = split(a, b++);
  } else {
    fork(); /* #2 */
   c = a++; b += c;
  if (b > c) {
    fork(); /* #3 */
 printf("%3d", a+b+c);
 return 0;
```

```
int split(int a, int b) {
 a++;
 a = fork(); /* #4 */
  if (a) {
    a = b;
  } else {
    if (fork()) /* #5 */ {
     a--;
     b += a;
  return a+b;
```



Р	а	b	С	a+b+c
Р	5	6	10	21
C1	1	5	0	6
C2	5	6	3	14
C11	1	5	0	6
C12	1	5	0	6
C21	5	6	5	16
C22	5	6	3	14
C111	1	5	0	6
C211	5	6	5	16

### **Exercise**

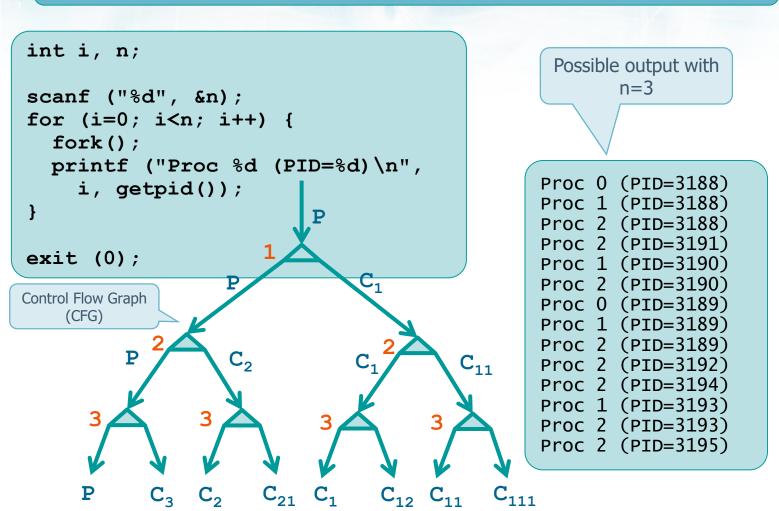
- Write a concurrent program that
  - Given n as its argument
  - Generates n children processes
- Each child process outputs its PID and terminates

```
int i, n;

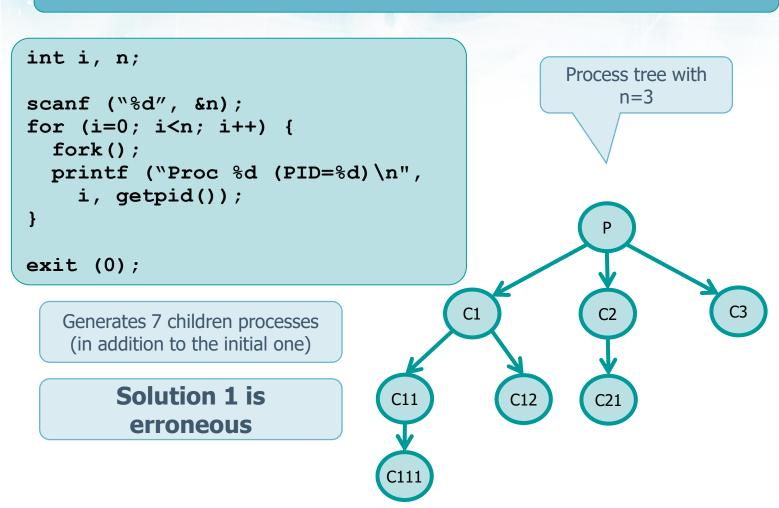
scanf ("%d", &n);
for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
   fork();
   printf ("Proc %d (PID=%d)\n",
       i, getpid());
}

exit (0);</pre>
```

### **Erroneous solution 1**



### **Erroneous solution 1**



```
int i, n;
scanf ("%d", &n);
printf ("Start PID=%d\n",
  getpid());
for(i=0; i<n; i++) {
  if (fork() == 0) {
    printf ("Proc %d (PID=%d) \n",
      i, getpid());
    break;
printf ("End PID=%d (PPID=%d) \n",
   getpid(), getppid());
exit(0);
```

```
int i, n;
scanf ("%d", &n);
printf ("Start PID=%d\n",
  getpid());
for(i=0; i<n; i++) {
  if (fork() == 0) {
    printf ("Proc %d (PID=%d)\n",
      i, getpid());
   break:
printf ("End PID=%d (PPID=%d) \n",
   getpid(), getppid());
exit(0);
```

```
> ps

PID TTY TIME CMD

088 pts/10 00:00:00 bash

> ./u04s01e06-fork

Start PID=3225

End PID=3225 (PPID=2088)

Proc 2 (PID=3228)

End PID=3228 (PPID=1314)

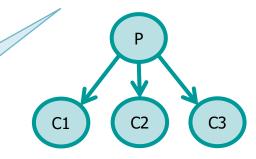
Proc 1 (PID=3227)

End PID=3227 (PPID=1314)

Proc 0 (PID=3226)

End PID=3226 (PPID=1314)
```

Process tree and output with n=3



#### Resources

- The child process is a new entry in the Process Table
- The process resources can be
  - Completely shared among parent and children processes
    - Same address space
  - Partially shared
    - Address spaces partially overlapped
  - Non shared
    - Separate address spaces

#### Resources

- In UNIX/Linux parent and child share
  - > The source code (C)
  - > The open file descriptors (File Description Table)
    - In particular, stdin, stdout, and stderr
      - Concurrent I/O operation implies producing interlaced I/O
  - ➤ User ID (UID), Group ID (GID), etc.
  - > The root and the working directory
  - > System resources and their utilization limits
  - Signal Table
  - > Etc.

#### Resources

- In UNIX/Linux parent and child have different
  - Return fork value
  - > PID
    - The parent keeps its PID
    - The child gets a new PID
  - > Data, heap and stack space
    - The initial value of the variables is inherited, but the spaces are completely separated
    - copy-on-write technique is used by modern OSs
      - New memory is allocated only when one of the processes changes the content of a variable

### **Example**

```
char c, str[10];
c = 'X';
if (fork()) {
  // parent (!=0)
  c = 'F';
  strcpy (str, "parent");
  sleep (5);
} else {
  // child (==0)
  strcpy (str, "child");
fprintf(stdout, "PID=%d; PPID=%d; c=%c; str=%s\n",
  getpid(), getppid(), c, str);
```

PID=2777; PPID=2776; c=X; str=child PID=2776; PPID=2446; c=F; str=parent Output

### **Process termination**

- Five standard methods for process termination
  - return from main()
  - > exit system call
  - > \_exit Or \_Exit
    - Synonyms defined in ISO C or POSIX
    - Similar effects of exit, but different management of stdio flushing etc.
  - return from main() of the last process thread
  - pthread\_exit from the last process thread

### **Process termination**

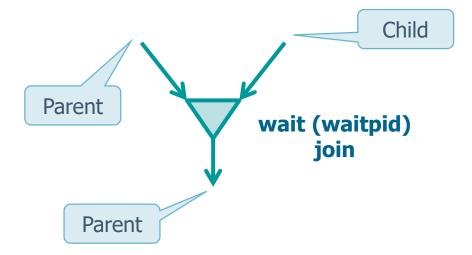
- Three not-normal method for process termination
  - > Call of the function abort
    - Generates the signal SIGABORT, this is a sub-case of the next because a signal is generated
  - ➤ If a termination signal, or a signal not caught is received
  - > If the last thread of a process is cancelled

# System call wait () and waitpid ()

- When a process terminates (normally or not)
  - > The kernel sends a signal (**SIGCHLD**) to its parent
  - > For the parent this is an asynchronous event
  - > The parent process may
    - Manage the child termination (and/or the signal)
      - Asynchronously
      - Synchronously
    - Ignore the event (default)

# System call wait () and waitpid ()

- A parent process can manage child termination
  - Asynchronously: using a signal handler for signal SIGCHLD
    - This approach will be introduced in the section devoted to signals
  - > Synchronously: by means of system calls
    - wait
    - waitpid



```
#include <sys/wait.h>
pid_t wait (int *statLoc);
```

- A call of the system call wait by means of a process
  - Returns an error if the calling process has not children
    - A process without children is not supposed to do a wait
    - In this case the returned value is -1

```
#include <sys/wait.h>
pid_t wait (int *statLoc);
```

- A call of the system call wait by means of a process
  - Blocks the calling process if all its children are running (none is already terminated)
    - wait will return as soon as one of its children terminates

```
#include <sys/wait.h>
pid_t wait (int *statLoc);
```

- A call of the system call wait by means of a process
  - Returns to the process (immediately) the termination status of a child, if at least one of the children has ended (and it is waiting for his termination status to be recovered)
    - When a process ends and the parent does not do a wait, its termination status remains pending
    - Some resources associated with the process remain blocked

```
#include <sys/wait.h>
pid_t wait (int *statLoc);
```

The statLoc parameter

Exit status of the child process

- > Is an integer pointer
  - If not NULL collects the exit value of the child
- > The status information are
  - Implementation dependent
  - Recovered using macros defined in <sys/wait.h>
     (WIFEXITED, WIFSIGNALED, etc.)

```
#include <sys/wait.h>
pid_t wait (int *statLoc);
```

 WIFEXITED(statLoc) is true if wait terminates correctly. In this case WEXITSTATUS(statLoc) catches the 8 LSBs of the parameter passed to a exit (\_exit or \_Exit)

#### Returned values

- > The PID of a terminated child on success
- > -1 on error

# **Example**

```
pid t pid, childPid;
int statVal;
pid = fork();
if (pid==0) {
  // Child
  sleep (5);
  exit (6);
} else {
```

### **Example**

```
// Parent
childPid = wait (&statVal);
printf("Child terminated: PID = %d\n", childPid);
if (WIFEXITED(statVal))
  // WIFEXITED: True if correctly terminated
  // WEXITSTATUS: Takes the 8 returned LSBs (exit)
  printf ("Exit value: %d\n",
                                            Prints 6
    WEXITSTATUS (statVal));
  else
    printf ("Abnormal termination\n");
exit(25);
                               echo $?
                           (in a shell) prints 25
```

## **Zombie processes**

- A child process terminated, whose parent is running, but has not executed **wait** is in the **zombie** state
  - ➤ The data segment of the process **remains** in the process table because the parent could need the child exit status
  - > The child entry is removed only when the parent executes wait
    - Many zombie processes may remain in the system if one or more parents do not execute their wait system call.

### **Zombie processes**

❖ It the parent process terminates (without executing wait, and the child is still running, the latter is inherited by init the process (PID=1). The child does not become zombie because the system knows that no one is waiting for its exit status.

Remember that in recent OS: "jobs started are not reparented to PID1 (init), but to a custom init -user, owned by the same user of the process ..."

- To use wait for a specific child, you need to
  - Control the PID of the terminated child
  - Possibly store the PID of the terminated child in the list of terminated child processes (for future checks/searches)
  - Make another wait until the desired child is terminated
- If a parent needs to wait a specific child it is better to use waitpid, which
  - suspends execution of the calling process until a child, specified by *pid* argument, has changed state
  - waitpid() has a not blocking form (not default)

```
#include <sys/wait.h>

pid_t waitpid (
  pid_t pid,
  int *statLoc,
  int options);
```

### The parameter pid allows waiting for

- ➤ Any child (waitpid==wait) (pid = -1)
- $\triangleright$  The child whose PID=pid (pid > 0)
- Any child whose GID is equal to that of the calling process (pid = 0)
- ➤ Any child whose GID=abs(pid) (pid < -1)</p>

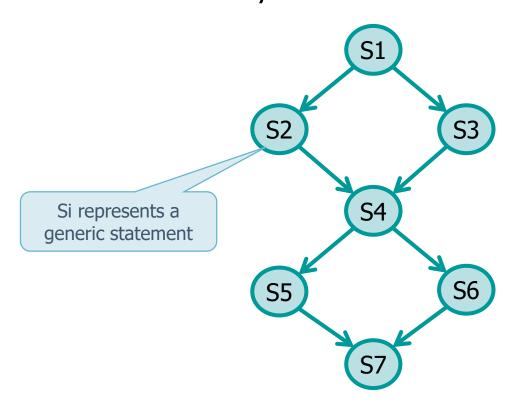
```
#include <sys/wait.h>

pid_t waitpid (
  pid_t pid,
  int *statLoc,
  int options);
```

- The options parameter allow additional controls
  - > Default is 0, or is a bitwise OR of constants
    - wnohang, if the child specified by PID is running, the caller does not block (not blocking version of wait)
    - WCONTINUED and WUNTRACED allow to know the status of a child in particular conditions

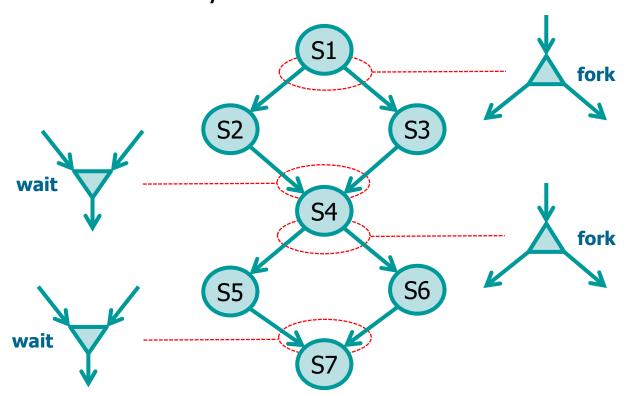
### **Exercise**

Implement this Control Flow Graph (CFG) by means of the system calls fork and wait



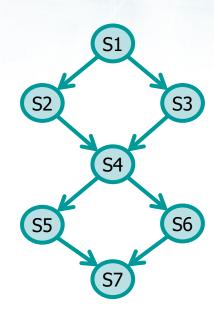
### **Exercise**

Implement this Control Flow Graph (CFG) by means of the system calls fork and wait



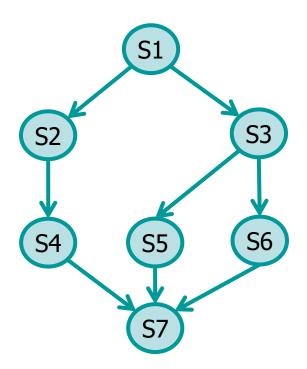
```
int main() {
                           Debug ...
  pid t pid;
  printf ("S1\n");
                                                    S4
  pid = fork();
                               Child
  if (pid == 0) {
    //sleep (2);
                                                           S6
    printf ("S3\n");
    exit (0);
  } else {
                               Parent
    //sleep (2);
    printf ("S2\n");
    wait ((int *) 0);
                                 Termination state
                                     ignored
      Returned PID ignored
```

```
printf ("S4\n");
pid = fork();
if (pid == 0) {
  //sleep (2);
  printf ("S6\n");
  exit (0);
} else {
  //sleep (2);
  printf ("S5\n");
  wait ((int *) 0);
printf ("S7\n");
return (0);
```



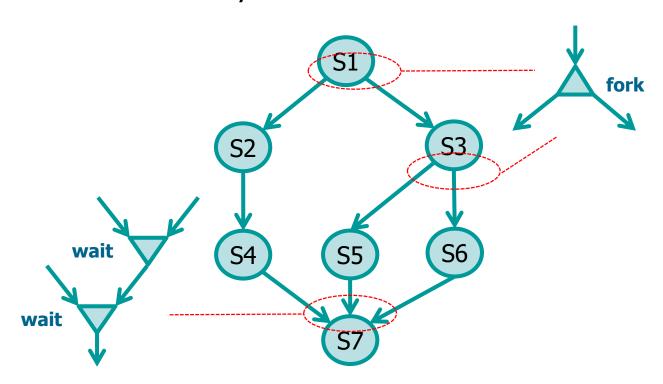
### **Exercise**

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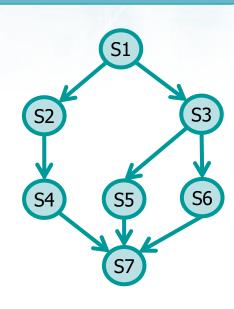


### **Exercise**

Implement this Control Flow Graph (CFG) by means of the system calls fork and wait

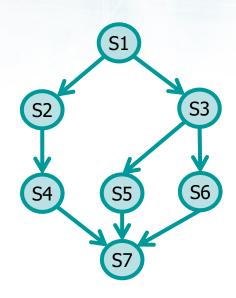


```
int main () {
  pid t pid;
  printf ("S1\n");
  if (\text{pid} = \text{fork}()) == -1)
    err sys( "can't fork" );
  if ( pid == 0 ) {
    P356();
  } else {
    printf ("S2\n");
    printf ("S4\n");
    while (wait((int *)0)!= pid);
    printf ("S7\n");
    exit (0);
  return (1);
```



Check on different terminations (useless in this case and replaceable with waitpid)

```
P356() {
  pid t pid;
  printf ("S3\n");
  if ( ( pid = fork() ) == -1 )
    err sys( "can't fork" );
  if (pid > 0 ) {
    printf ("S5\n");
    while (wait((int *)0)!=pid );
  } else {
    printf ("S6\n");
    exit (0);
  exit (0);
```



#### **Exercise**

### Write a program that

- > Takes as argument an integer value n
- Allocates dynamically an integer vector of dimension n
- > Fills the vector with values reads from the terminal
- Displays the vector content, from the last to the first element, using n-1 processes, each displaying a single element of the vector

#### > Hint

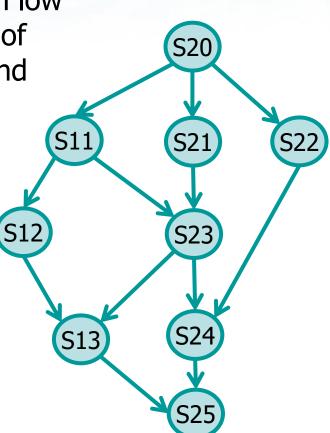
 Synchronize the processes by means of wait system calls, in order to establish the order of display of the elements of the vector

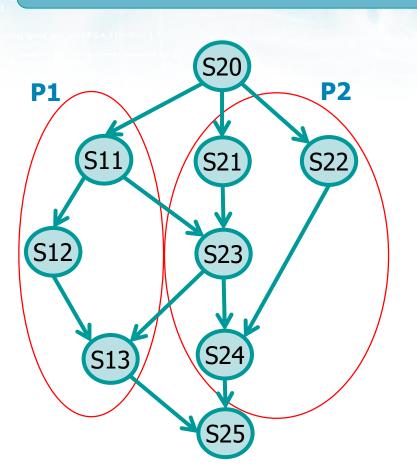
```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
  int i, n, *vet;
 int retValue;
 pid t pid;
 n = atoi (argv[1]);
 vet = (int *) malloc (n * sizeof (int));
  if (vet==NULL) {
    fprintf (stderr, "Allocation Error.\n");
   exit (1);
  fprintf (stdout, "Input:\n");
  for (i=0; i<n; i++) {
    fprintf (stdout, "vet[%d]:", i);
   scanf ("%d", &vet[i]);
```

```
fprintf (stdout, "Output:\n");
for (i=0; i<n-1; i++) {
 pid = fork();
  if (pid>0) {
   pid = wait (&retValue);
   break;
  fprintf (stdout, "Run PID=%d\n", getpid());
fprintf (stdout, "vet[%d]:%d - ", i, vet[i]);
fprintf (stdout, "End PID=%d\n", getpid());
exit (0);
```

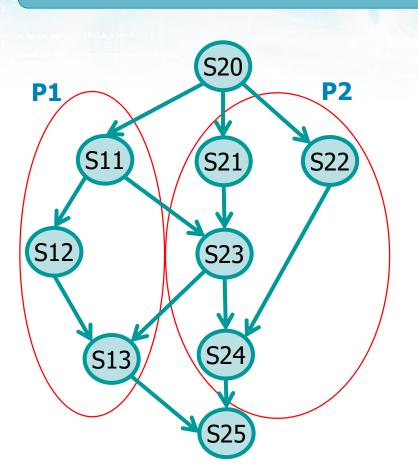
### **Exercise**

Implement this Control Flow Graph (CFG) by means of the system calls fork and wait

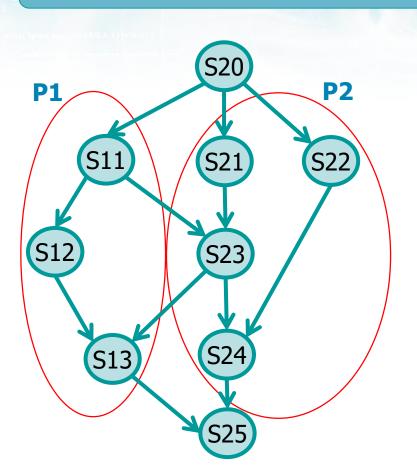




```
main () {
  S20 ();
  pid = fork ();
  if (pid>0) {
    P1 ();
    wait ((int *)0);
  } else {
    P2 ();
  S25 ();
  return;
```



```
P1() {
  S11 ();
 pid = fork ();
  if (pid>0) {
    S12 ();
    wait((int *)0);
  } else {
    ??? To P2 ???;
    exit(0);
  S13 ();
```



```
P2() {
  pid = fork ();
  if (pid>0) {
    S21 ();
    ??? From S1 ???;
    S23 ();
    wait((int *)0);
  } else {
    S22 ();
    exit(0);
  S24 ();
  exit (0);
```

#### **Unfeasible**

```
graph
P1() {
                                 P2() {
  S11 ();
                                   pid = fork ();
 pid = fork ();
                                   if (pid>0) {
  if (pid>0) {
                                     S21 ();
    S12 ();
                                     ??? From S1 ???;
    wait((int *)0);
                                     S23 ();
  } else {
                                     wait((int *)0);
    ??? To P2 ???;
                   S11
                                     else {
    exit(0);
                                     S22 ();
                                     exit(0);
  S13 ();
                                   S24 ();
                                   exit (0);
```