

Part 1: Command Execution

In this part, the code is responsible for executing a single command provided by the user.

1) `int pid = fork();`: This line creates a new process using `fork()`. The parent process receives the child's process ID (`pid`), while the child process receives 0.

2) `if (pid == 0) {`: This condition checks if the current process is the child.

3) Inside the child process:

- ☐ `execvp(ecmd->argv[0], ecmd->argv);`: The `execvp` function is used to replace the current child process with the desired command provided in `ecmd->argv`. It searches for the command in the directories specified in the PATH environment variable.
- ☐ If the `execvp` call succeeds, the child process will be replaced, and the new command will be executed. If it fails, the code prints an error message using `fprintf` to the standard error stream (`stderr`). The `strerror(errno)` function is used to get a human-readable error message related to the error code stored in `errno`.
- ☐ `exit(1);`: The child process exits with an error status (1) to indicate a failure.

4) `else if (pid < 0) {`: This condition checks if forking the child process failed.

5) Inside the parent process:

- ☐ `int status; wait(&status);`: The parent process waits for the child process to finish using the `wait` function. The exit status of the child process is stored in the `status` variable.

6) The `break;` statement ends the `' '` case block.

Part 2: I/O Redirection

This part deals with input and output redirection. It handles both '<' (input redirection) and '>' (output redirection) symbols in the command. Here's the code explained:

1) For both input and output redirection:

- ``int output_fd = open(rcmd->file, rcmd->mode, 0666);``: This line opens the specified file with the specified mode (read or write). The file descriptor is stored in ``output_fd``.
- ``int input_fd = open(rcmd->file, rcmd->mode);``: For input redirection, it opens the file for reading.

2) Input Redirection ('<'):

- ``dup2(input_fd, 0);``: This line duplicates the file descriptor for the input file (``input_fd``) to the standard input file descriptor (0). This redirects the command's standard input to the input file.

3) Output Redirection ('>'):

- ``dup2(output_fd, 1);``: This line duplicates the file descriptor for the output file (``output_fd``) to the standard output file descriptor (1). This redirects the command's standard output to the output file.

4) ``close(output_fd);`` and ``close(input_fd);``:

These lines close the file descriptors as they are no longer needed after redirection.

5) After setting up the redirection, the code recursively calls ``runcmd(rcmd->cmd);`` to execute the command that follows the redirection.

Part 3: Pipes

This part adds the ability to pipe the output of one command into the input of another.

1) `int pipefd[2];`: This line declares an array to hold two file descriptors for the pipe.

2) `if (pipe(pipefd) < 0) {`: It checks if creating a pipe failed.

3) Inside the parent process:

- ☐ Two child processes are forked (`pid1` and `pid2`), each handling one of the commands separated by the `|` symbol.
- ☐ The parent process ensures that both pipes' read and write ends are closed using `close(pipefd[0]);` and `close(pipefd[1]);`.

4) Inside the child processes:

- ☐ One child handles the left command, and the other handles the right command.
- ☐ `dup2(pipefd[1], STDOUT_FILENO);` or `dup2(pipefd[0], STDIN_FILENO);` is used to redirect the standard output or input of the child process to the pipe.

5) The parent process waits for both child processes to finish using `waitpid(pid1, NULL, 0);` and `waitpid(pid2, NULL, 0);`.

These parts together enable the execution of complex pipelines of commands, where the output of one command is passed as input to another.