

Operating Systems

Laboratory 5

Learning goals: In this laboratory activity, you will learn how to use **system** and **exec** system calls. You will understand how to execute commands in your own programs.

Exercise 1

Write a C program that takes two arguments from the command line, **n** and **k**, creates a subdirectory **data**, and creates in that directory **n** files, named **f00**, **f01**, ..., **fnn**, respectively, each including a variable number (random in range **[1-k]**) of random integers.

Exercise 2

Write a C program that takes as arguments a number **C** and a directory name **dir**.

The main program, using the system call **system**, outputs in a file **list.txt** the list of files in directory **dir**. Then it reads the content of the file **list.txt**, and for each read line (a filename) forks a child process, which must sort the file by executing (through the **execlp** system call) the Unix **sort** program with the appropriate arguments.

Notice that the command **sort -n -o fname fname** sorts in ascending order the content of **fname**, and by means of the **-o** option rewrites the content of file **fname** with the sorted numbers. Option **-n** indicates numeric rather than alphabetic ordering

The main process can create a maximum of **C** children that sort different files in concurrency, to avoid overloading the system. Then, it has to wait the termination of these children before reading the next filename from file **list.txt**.

After all files listed in **list.txt** have been sorted, the main process must produce a single file **all_sorted.txt**, where all the numbers appearing in all the sorted files are sorted in ascending order. Do this by using again system call **system** with the appropriate commands.

Take care of dealing with a number of files that is not a multiple of **C**, i.e., remember to wait for the last files of the list.

Exercise 3

Implement the solution for Exercise 2 replacing system call **execlp** with system call **execv**.

Summary

At the end of this laboratory activity, you should have understood how to use **system** and **exec** system calls.