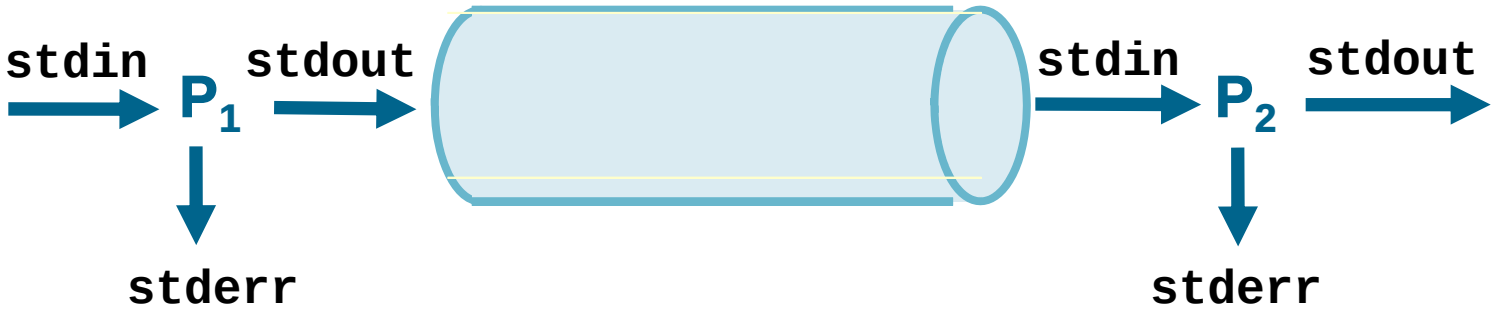
Processes

Pipes and redirections Linux

Stefano Quer and Pietro Laface
Dipartimento di Automatica e Informatica
Politecnico di Torino

Pipes

- Inter-process communication can be performed by processes executed by shell commands
- A shell **pipe** connects the standard output of a sender process, and the standard input of a receiving process



Pipe

command$_1$ | command$_2$

- Examples
  - ls -la | more
  - ps | grep main
  - cat file1.txt file2.txt file3.txt | sort
  - ls -laR *.c | wc

I/O redirection

- The standard files
  - Standard input (stdin, 0)
  - Standard output (stdout, 1)
  - Standard error (stderr, 2)

  can be redirected by the shell
- A process reads/writes data from a source/destination different with respect to the predefined standard ones

I/O redirection

- A special file
  - `/dev/null`

- Writing on `/dev/null` does not produce any output (`/dev/null` is a sink)
- Reading from `/dev/null` returns a sequence of zeros

Standard input

```
command < file
```

- Standard input redirection (reads from a file)

```
command << marker
... text ...
marker
```

- Standard input redirection (reads from terminal)
  - ”here document”
  - marker is a generic string
    - Often **EOF**

Standard output

```
command  >  file
command  1>  file
```

- Standard output redirection on a file
  - If the file exist it is overwritten
  - Descriptor 1 (stdout) is the default
    - Thus it is normally omitted

```
command  >>  file
```

- Standard output redirection on a file (append)

Standard error

```
command  2>  file

command  2>>  file
```

- Standard error redirection on a file
- Standard error redirection on a file (append)

Both streams

```
command   &>   file
command   &>>  file
```

& is not the last character of the line !!

- Standard **and** error redirection on a file
- Standard **and** error redirection on a file (append)

Multiple redirection

```
command  1>  fileOut  2>  fileErr
command   >  fileOut  2>  fileErr
```

- Redirection on different files of
  - Standard output
  - Standard error