

# Parallel Array Sum with Fork

## Objective

Write a C program that calculates the sum of an array of integers by dividing the workload between multiple processes created using the `fork()` function.

## Instructions

### 1. Initialize an array:

- Create an array of 20 integers. Initialize it with random values between 1 and 100.

### 2. Determine process count:

- Divide the work between 4 child processes. Each process should calculate the sum of a specific portion of the array.

### 3. Use `fork()`:

- Use `fork()` to create 4 child processes.
- Each child process should handle a unique portion of the array (for example, the first 5 elements for the first process, the next 5 for the second, etc.).

### 4. Shared memory segment:

- Create a shared memory segment where each child process can store its calculated sum. Use `shmget()` and `shmat()` for shared memory management.
- Ensure each process writes its partial sum to a unique position in the shared memory segment.

### 5. Parent process:

- After creating the child processes, the parent process should wait for all child processes to complete using `wait()`.
- Once all child processes have completed, the parent should read the partial sums from the shared memory and compute the total sum of the array.

### 6. Output:

- Display the partial sum computed by each child process.
- Display the total sum computed by the parent process.

## Bonus Challenge

To make the exercise harder, you can:

- Implement error handling for system calls.
- Use `pipe()` to send completion status from each child process back to the parent.
- Measure and output the time taken to compute the sum using multiple processes versus a single process.

## Example Output

```
Child 1 calculated partial sum: 100  
Child 2 calculated partial sum: 150  
Child 3 calculated partial sum: 120  
Child 4 calculated partial sum: 130  
Total sum calculated by parent: 500
```