Operating Systems – COC 3071L

SE 5th A - Fall 2025

1. Introduction

A **process** is simply a program in execution.

- When you type a command in Linux (like ls), the OS creates a process for it.
- Every process has:
 - PID (Process ID) → unique number for each process.
 - PPID (Parent Process ID) → ID of the process that created it.
 - State → running, sleeping, stopped, zombie, etc.

In this lab, you will:

- 1. Learn Linux commands to monitor and manage processes.
- 2. Write C programs to create and observe processes.

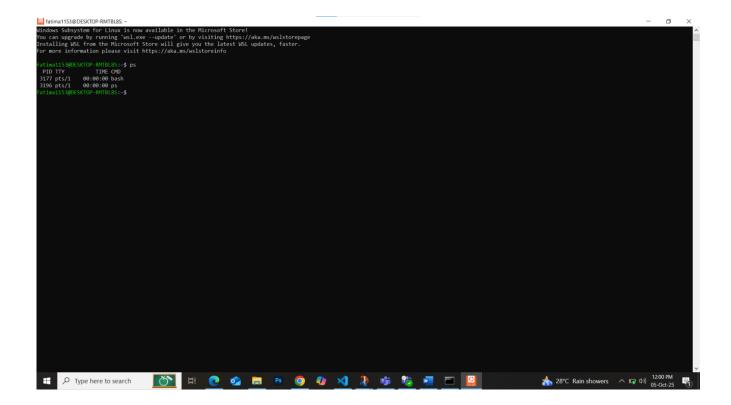
2. Linux Process Commands

2.1 Viewing Processes

ps → Process Status

Shows processes in the current terminal session.

ps



Output example:

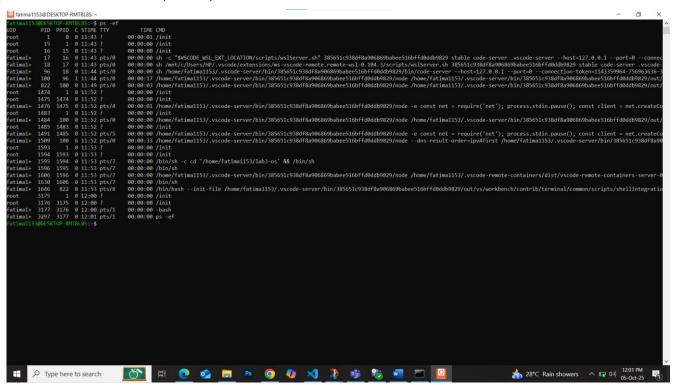
1234 pts/0 00:00:00 bash 1256 pts/0 00:00:00 ps

- PID → Process ID
- TTY → terminal
- TIME \rightarrow CPU time used
- CMD → command name

ps -ef → Full list of all processes

ps -ef

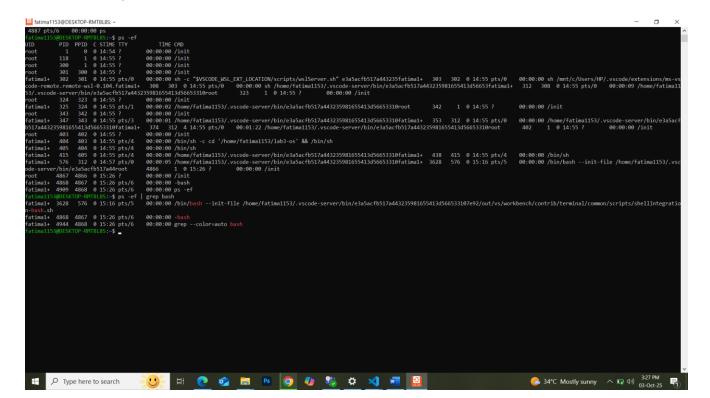
- -e → show all processes (not just yours).
- -f → full format with UID, PPID, etc.



Try:

```
ps -ef | grep bash
```

This finds all processes related to the shell.

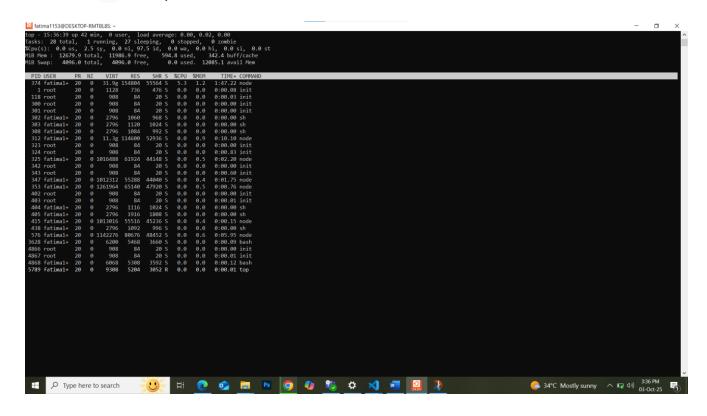


2.2 Monitoring Processes Interactively

top → Dynamic process viewer

top

- Displays running processes with CPU and memory usage.
- Press q to quit.
- Press k inside top to kill a process (enter PID).
- Press h for help.



2.3 Foreground and Background Jobs

Foreground: A process that takes control of the terminal until it finishes.

```
sleep 30
```

- → You cannot type new commands until it finishes.
- Background: Add & to run without blocking.

```
sleep 30 &
```

- → Terminal is free while the command runs.
- Check background jobs:

jobs

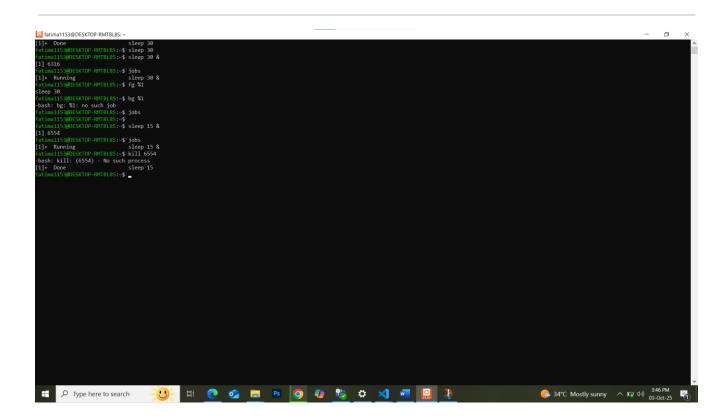
Bring a job to foreground:

```
fg %1
```

%1 means job number 1 (from jobs output).

- Suspend a job: Press Ctrl + Z while it runs.
- Resume suspended job in background:

```
bg %1
```



2.4 Process Identification

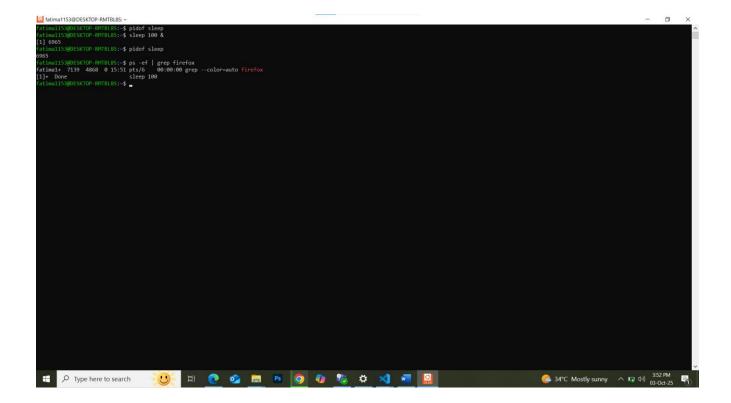
Get PID of a process by name:

```
pidof sleep
```

Example output: 3421 (PID of sleep command).

Search using ps and grep:

```
ps -ef | grep firefox
```



2.5 Killing Processes

• Kill by PID:

```
kill −9 3421

• −9 \rightarrow force kill (SIGKILL).
```

Kill all processes by name:

```
killall sleep
```

Practice Task:

1. Run an infinite process:

```
yes > /dev/null &
```

(yes prints "y" forever; redirected to /dev/null to hide output).

2. Find it with:

```
ps -ef | grep yes

3. Kill it with:
```

kill -9 <PID>

3. C Programs on Processes

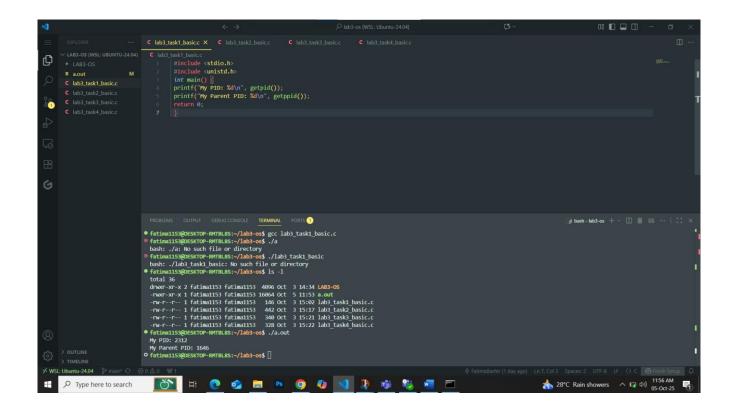
Program 1: Print PID and PPID

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <unistd.h>

int main() {
    printf("My PID: %d\n", getpid());
    printf("My Parent PID: %d\n", getppid());
    return 0;
}
```

- * #include <unistd.h> \rightarrow contains process-related functions like getpid() and getppid() .
- getpid() → returns the unique process ID of the current process.
- getppid() → returns the parent's PID.
- Every process in Linux has a parent (except the very first process, usually init or systemd).

Run and compare with ps -ef.



Program 2: Fork – Creating Child Process

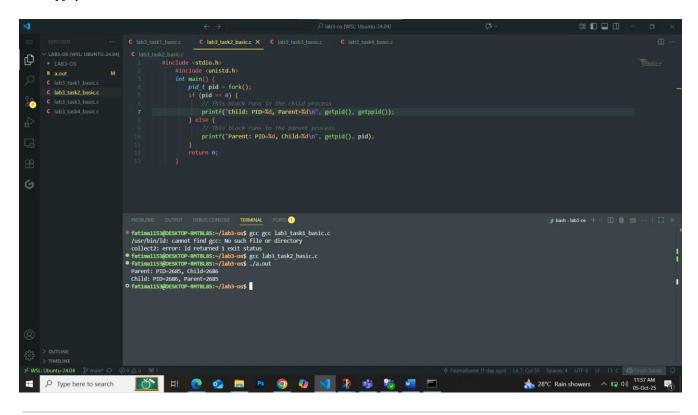
```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <unistd.h>

int main() {
    pid_t pid = fork();

if (pid == 0) {
        // This block runs in the child process
        printf("Child: PID=%d, Parent=%d\n", getpid(), getppid());
} else {
        // This block runs in the parent process
        printf("Parent: PID=%d, Child=%d\n", getpid(), pid);
```

```
}
return 0;
}
```

- fork() creates a new process by duplicating the current one.
- Return value of fork():
 - 0 → you are inside the child process.
 - Positive number (child PID) → you are in the parent process.
- After fork(), both parent and child run the same code, but in different branches of the
 if.



```
Program 3: Execl - Replacing a Process
#include <stdio.h>
#include <unistd.h>

int main() {
    pid_t pid = fork();

    if (pid == 0) {
        execlp("Is", "Is", "-I", NULL);
        printf("This will not print if exec succeeds.\n");
    } else {
        printf("Parent still running...\n");
    }
    return 0;
}
```

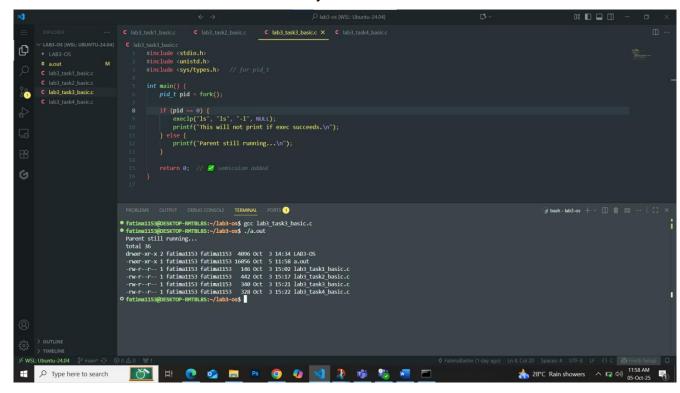
fork() → creates child.

•

In the child:

```
execlp("ls", "ls", "-l", NULL);
```

- Replaces the current process image with the ls program.
- First "ls" = name of the program, second "ls" = argument 0 (how program sees itself).
- "-l" = argument for ls.
- NULL marks end of arguments.
- After exec(), the child no longer runs our C code it becomes ls.
- Parent is unaffected and continues normally.



Program 4: Wait - Synchronization

- fork() → creates child.
- sleep(3) → child "works" for 3 seconds.
- wait(NULL) → parent pauses until child exits.
- Without wait(), parent may finish early and child could become a zombie process.

