

Introduction to the Command Line: The Shell and Basic Commands

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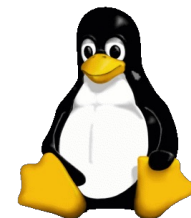
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What We Will Learn

- The fundamental commands of the **Unix** operating system.
- Everything here is also applicable to the **Linux operating system**. I will refer to both of these as *nix systems.



Outline

- Introduction to the Shell
 - Redirections/Pipes
- Files and Directories
 - Listing Files, File Types
 - Directory Structure
 - File Permissions
 - Wildcards
- Getting Help
- Advanced Commands, Editing

What Is *nix?

- *nix is a computer operating system, a control program that works with users to
 - run programs,
 - manage resources, and
 - communicate with other computer systems.
- *nix systems are
 - **Multiuser**: Several people can use a *nix computer at the same time
 - **Multitasking**: Any of these users can also run multiple programs at the same time
 - **Plain Text Data Storage**
 - **Hierarchical File System**

How do you get *nix?

- Linux and macOS are built on Unix, so it is available natively on these operating systems. On a Mac, you will use Terminal to interact with the shell.
- Windows 10 and 11 (64-bit) now allow you to activate the Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL). You need to be an administrator of your computer in order to do this.
 - <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/wsl/install>
 - Alternatively, you can install a Linux Virtual Machine under Windows, but WSL is much more straightforward.
- For this class, in a pinch, you can make use of a browser terminal testbed: <https://bit.ly/fedora-term>

Command Line of *nix

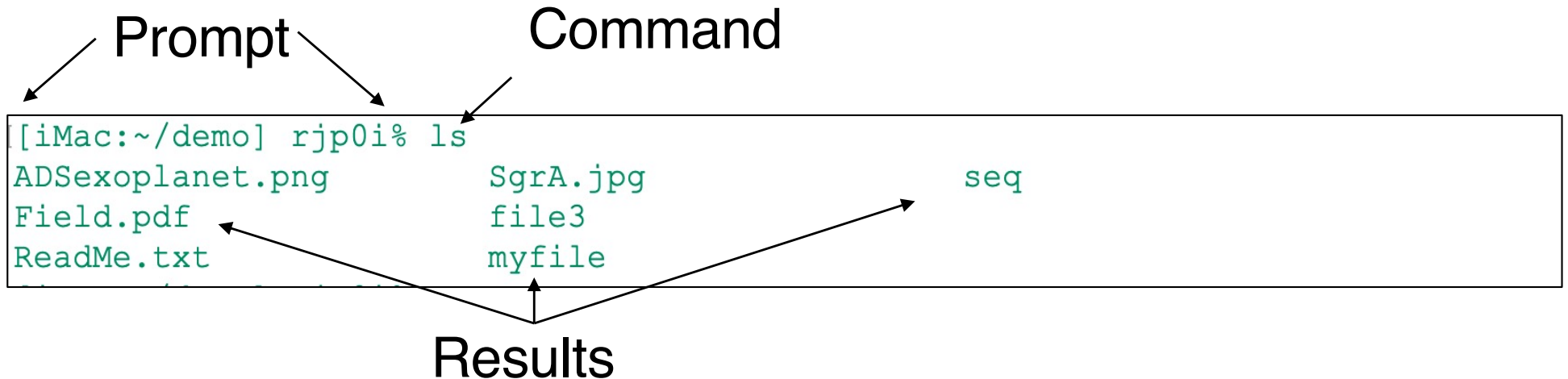
- When you first log into a ***nix (Unix or Linux)** system, you are presented with something that looks like this, or this:

```
(base) UL-RJP0I-MBP13:~ rjp0i$
```

```
bash-3.2$
```

- That “something” is called a **prompt**. It is prompting you to enter a **command**.
- Every ***nix command** is a sequence of **letters** and **numbers**. (There are no spaces in a command name itself).
- *nix is also **case-sensitive**. This means that *cat* and *Cat* and *CAT* are all different commands.

Command Line



Why use the command line, instead of a GUI interface?

- While a graphical tool is usually available for most tasks, you can **do more** from the command line
- Command line is always available, and it works the same from platform to platform. GUI tools can vary or not even be available (e.g., through remote access).
- Command line commands are easily documented/recorded and **easily reproduced**.

The Shell

- The **prompt** is displayed by a special program called the **shell**. It is the interface between the operating system and the user.
- **Shells accept** commands from user and uses the operating system to **run** those commands. It then returns the results to the user.
- **Shells** can also be programmed in their own language. These programs are called “**shell scripts**”. Shell scripts are powerful, but beyond the scope of this introduction.

The Shell

- The shell parses commands before executing them.
- It expands **wildcard** expressions (“ls *.dat” to show all files ending in .dat)
- The shell stores a **history** of previous commands
- The shell provides a way for the user to define commands (**aliases**)
- The shell maintains a set of user-defined variables (environment and system variables)

The Shell

- The shell has the ability to **auto-complete** commands or file names.
- The shell provides control structures (while/do, if/then/else) that allow you to write programs (**shell scripts**)
- The shell provides some plumbing which allows you to connect commands together with **pipes**, as well as to redirect input and output

The Shell

- When you first login, the **prompt** is displayed by **the default shell**, and you are running your first *nix program. (This might be **bash**, or **zsh**, or...)
- If you remain logged in, the *shell* will constantly be running (unless you choose to change to another shell).
- Other shells available include **cs****h**, **tc****sh**, **k****sh**, **z****sh** and **fish**. They all behave very similarly but have differences/quirks that appeal to different users.

Command Syntax: Options

```
[iMac:~/demo] rjp0i% ls -l
total 1632
-rw-r--r--@ 1 rjp0i  staff    71412 Jun  6 11:33 ADSexoplanet.png
-rw-r--r--@ 1 rjp0i  staff   126316 Jun  6 11:32 Field.pdf
-rw-r--r--  1 rjp0i  staff         0 Jun  6 11:39 ReadMe.txt
-rw-r--r--@ 1 rjp0i  staff   628504 Jun  6 11:32 SgrA.jpg
-rw-r--r--  1 rjp0i  staff         0 Jun  6 11:39 file3
-rw-r--r--  1 rjp0i  staff         0 Jun  6 11:33 myfile
-rwxr-xr-x  1 rjp0i  staff     328 Jun  6 11:34 seq
```

- Commands can usually be modified with options (switches). An option modifies how the program **runs**.
- For **ls**, **-l** is an **option** that lets you see more information about the contents of the current directory (type **ls -l** in your terminal)
- A few other switches for **ls**
 - S** (combined with **-l**) sorts files in order of descending size
 - T** (combined with **-l**) sorts files in reverse time order
 - a** Lists all files, including hidden files
- There are many, many more options for **ls**.

Command Syntax: Options

- Many *nix commands are like **ls**.
 - They have **options**, which are generally one character after a dash, and they have **arguments**.
- Unlike **ls**, some commands *require* certain arguments and/or options.
- Options can be combined: **ls -als**
- Some options can be given as words, rather than letters. If this is the case, it is used with a double dash: **lpr --help**

Autocompletion

- If you want to see commands beginning with **c** you can write **c** then press **Tab** key

```
c++          chage          codepage     continue
c++decl     charset        col          control-panel
c++filt     chattr        colcrt       convert_smbpasswd
c2ph        checkalias    collateindex.pl  cp
c_rehash    chfn          colrm        cpio
cal         chgrp         column       cpp
calibrate_ppa  chmod        comm         cproto
cancel      chown         command      crontab
captainfo   chsh         comp         csh
card        chvt         comp_err     csplit
case        ci            compgen      ctags
cat         cjpeg        compile_et   cut
catchsegv   cksum        complete     cvs
cc          clear        composeglyphs  cvsbug
cd          cmp          compress     cxpm
cdecl       cmuwmtophm   consolechars cytune
chacl       co           consolehelper
```

...and 104 more commands...

Now, what happens if you type “h” after the “c” and press Tab again?

Command-Line History:

```
~/demo> history
349 16:14 wget http://download.adobe.com/pub/adobe/magic/svgviewer....
350 16:15 tar tzvf adobesvg-3.01x88-linux-i386.tar.gz
351 16:15 tar xzvf adobesvg-3.01x88-linux-i386.tar.gz
352 16:15 cd adobesvg-3.01
353 16:15 dir
354 16:15 cd ..
355 16:15 rm adobesvg-3.01*
356 16:15 rm -rf adobesvg-3.01*
357 16:19 git clone git://people.freedesktop.org/~cworth/svg2pdf
358 16:19 cd svg2pdf
359 16:19 dif
360 16:19 dir
361 16:19 git pull
362 16:19 make
363 16:19 dir
364 16:20 ./svg2pdf ../drawing.svg
365 16:20 ./svg2pdf ../drawing.svg junk.pdf
366 16:20 acroread junk.pdf
```

The “history” command shows you commands you've recently entered.

You can use the up and down **arrow keys** to recall previously-typed commands and re-use them. If you know the beginning of a previously-entered command, you can re-run it by entering a “!” followed by the beginning of the command.

Aliases

```
~/demo> which echo  
echo: shell built-in command.
```

```
~/demo> which rm  
rm: aliased to rm -i
```

Creating aliases:

In the bash shell:

```
~/demo> alias blarg=ls
```

In the tcsh shell:

```
~/demo> alias blarg ls
```

```
~/demo> blarg  
clus.pdf      data-for-everybody.1.dat  phase2  
cluster.pdf  ForYourEyesOnly.dat     readme.txt  
cpuinfo.dat  phase1                   ReadMe.txt
```

(For aliased commands in bash, use **command -v** instead of **which** to check definition)

Stringing Commands Together

*nix commands can be strung together to carry out complex actions. The output of one command can be sent to the input of another, and so on. This is done commonly through “pipes” and “backticks”

In a directory with a lot of files, typing **ls -l** will quickly fill the screen. We can try typing **ls -l | less**

This shows the output of ls one page at a time, by redirecting the output of the **ls -l** command into the **less** command.

Much more complicated command strings are possible:

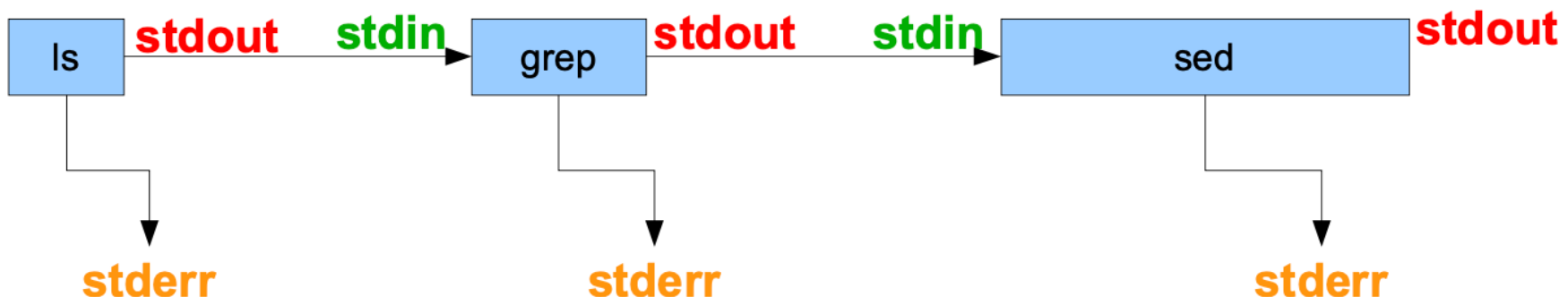
```
ls -l | grep stars | sed -e 's/star/STAR/' | awk '{print $3,$NF}'
```

Stringing Commands Together

Keeping in mind where input/output and error messages go is important when stringing commands together.

- **stdout** is the channel the program uses to print output
- **stdin** is the channel the program uses to obtain input
- **stderr** is the channel the program uses to report errors

```
ls -l | grep stars | sed -e 's/st/ST/'
```



Redirecting Output to a file

- `ls -l | grep stars > filename`
 - Create a new file called **filename**, and fill it with the output (stdout) of the command. If filename already exists, it will be overwritten (if permitted)
- `ls -l | grep stars >> filename`
 - *Append* the output (stdout) from the commands to an existing file called **filename**
- To redirect **both** the stdout and the stderr to a file:
- In tcsh: `ls -l | grep stars >& filename`
- In bash: `ls -l | grep stars > filename 2>&1`

Nesting Commands with backticks (`)

```
~/demo/phase2> ls
```

```
bad_users.txt      laundry_list.txt  recipes.txt  
good_users.txt    random_junk.txt  ugly_users.txt  
...et cetera.
```

```
~/demo/phase2> ls | grep users
```

```
bad_users.txt  
good_users.txt  
ugly_users.txt
```

```
~/demo/phase2> grep Bryan `ls | grep users`
```

```
ugly_users.txt:Bryan
```

Commands between backticks `` are evaluated and then the output is inserted into the command line. It is just as though you had typed the output of the backticked command directly into the command line. The other commands patiently wait for the backticked commands to be evaluated.

Files and Directories



Files and Directories



Listing Files in Current Directory

```
bash-4.2$ ls
ADSexoplanet.png      SgrA.jpg              myfile
Field.pdf             deeper                seq
ReadMe.txt            file3                 test_run
bash-4.2$ ls -l
total 1640
-rw-r--r--@ 1 rjp0i  staff  71412 Jun  6 11:33 ADSexoplanet.png
-rw-r--r--@ 1 rjp0i  staff 126316 Jun  6 11:32 Field.pdf
-rw-r--r--  1 rjp0i  staff   1706 Jun  6 16:14 ReadMe.txt
-rw-r--r--@ 1 rjp0i  staff 628504 Jun  6 11:32 SgrA.jpg
drwxr-xr-x  2 rjp0i  staff    64 Jun  6 16:17 deeper
-rw-r--r--  1 rjp0i  staff    0 Jun  6 11:39 file3
-rw-r--r--  1 rjp0i  staff    0 Jun  6 11:33 myfile
-rwxr-xr-x  1 rjp0i  staff   328 Jun  6 11:34 seq
drwxr-xr-x_ 2 rjp0i  staff    64 Jun  6 16:17 test_run
```

- Note that file names are case sensitive. **Caution: This is true in Linux, but not quite true in OS X. OS X preserves the case of the filename, but ignores it.**

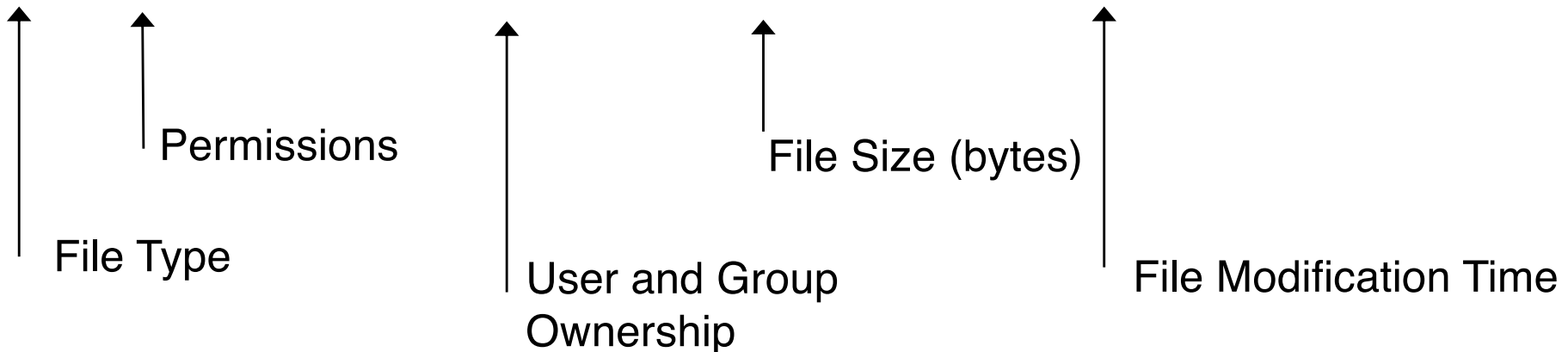
Listing Files in Current Directory

```
bash-4.2$ ls
```

```
ADSexoplanet.png      SgrA.jpg      myfile
Field.pdf             deeper        seq
ReadMe.txt           file3        test_run
```

```
bash-4.2$ ls -l
```

```
total 1640
-rw-r--r--@ 1 rjp0i staff 71412 Jun 6 11:33 ADSexoplanet.png
-rw-r--r--@ 1 rjp0i staff 126316 Jun 6 11:32 Field.pdf
-rw-r--r--  1 rjp0i staff  1706 Jun 6 16:14 ReadMe.txt
-rw-r--r--@ 1 rjp0i staff 628504 Jun 6 11:32 SgrA.jpg
drwxr-xr-x  2 rjp0i staff    64 Jun 6 16:17 deeper
-rw-r--r--  1 rjp0i staff     0 Jun 6 11:39 file3
-rw-r--r--  1 rjp0i staff     0 Jun 6 11:33 myfile
-rwxr-xr-x  1 rjp0i staff   328 Jun 6 11:34 seq
drwxr-xr-x  2 rjp0i staff    64 Jun 6 16:17 test_run
```



Symbolic Links

```
[bash-4.2$ ls -l
total 1640
-rw-r--r--@ 1 rjp0i  staff    71412 Jun  6 11:33 ADSexoplanet.png
-rw-r--r--@ 1 rjp0i  staff   126316 Jun  6 11:32 Field.pdf
-rw-r--r--  1 rjp0i  staff    1706 Jun  6 16:14 ReadMe.txt
-rw-r--r--@ 1 rjp0i  staff   628504 Jun  6 11:32 SgrA.jpg
drwxr-xr-x  2 rjp0i  staff     64 Jun  6 16:17 deeper
-rw-r--r--  1 rjp0i  staff      0 Jun  6 11:39 file3
-rw-r--r--  1 rjp0i  staff      0 Jun  6 11:33 myfile
lrwxr-xr-x  1 rjp0i  staff     16 Jun  6 16:32 opt_link -> /Users/rjp0i/opt
-rwxr-xr-x  1 rjp0i  staff    328 Jun  6 11:34 seq
drwxr-xr-x  2 rjp0i  staff     64 Jun  6 16:17 test_run
```

Symbolic links are alternative names for a file or directory. Here “opt_link” is a symbolic link pointing to a real file (a directory, in this case) called “opt” (which is located in a different directory).

To create a symbolic link, use the `ln -s` command:

```
ln -s RealFile SymlinkedFile
```

Order is important!

Directory Files

```
[bash-4.2$ ls -l
total 1640
-rw-r--r--@ 1 rjp0i  staff    71412 Jun  6 11:33 ADSexoplanet.png
-rw-r--r--@ 1 rjp0i  staff   126316 Jun  6 11:32 Field.pdf
-rw-r--r--  1 rjp0i  staff    1706 Jun  6 16:14 ReadMe.txt
-rw-r--r--@ 1 rjp0i  staff   628504 Jun  6 11:32 SgrA.jpg
drwxr-xr-x  2 rjp0i  staff     64 Jun  6 16:17 deeper
-rw-r--r--  1 rjp0i  staff      0 Jun  6 11:39 file3
-rw-r--r--  1 rjp0i  staff      0 Jun  6 11:33 myfile
lrwxr-xr-x  1 rjp0i  staff     16 Jun  6 16:32 opt_link -> /Users/rjp0i/opt
-rwxr-xr-x  1 rjp0i  staff    328 Jun  6 11:34 seq
drwxr-xr-x  2 rjp0i  staff     64 Jun  6 16:17 test_run
```

Directories can contain other directories (sub-directories of the first directory). The sub-directories appear in the listing above. They can in turn contain other files and other directories (and symbolic links).

Storing Information - Directories

- In *nix, the collection of directories and files is called the **file system**. The file system consists of at least one directory, called the **“root”** directory
- Within the **“root”** directory, there are more directories, and inside those directories are files and yet more directories.
- In *nix there is a single directory tree (unlike Windows, with the separately lettered C: drive, D: drive, etc.)
- Note that *nix uses **“/”** for the directory separator, while Windows uses **“\”**

Special Directories: The Current Directory

- You can see what directory you are currently in using **pwd**

```
bash-4.2$ pwd
/Users/rjp0i/demo
```

- The path to a file or directory is given as a list of parent directories, separated by slashes.
- You can change your current directory using **cd**

```
bash-4.2$ cd deeper
bash-4.2$ pwd
/Users/rjp0i/demo/deeper
```

```
bash-4.2$ cd /Users/rjp0i/Desktop
bash-4.2$ pwd
/Users/rjp0i/Desktop
```

Special Directories: The Home Directory

- Each user has a home directory, which is the current directory when you first log in

```
bash-4.2$ echo $HOME
/Users/rjp0i
bash-4.2$ ls $HOME/demo
```

- You can always change to your home directory using **cd** without argument

```
bash-4.2$ pwd
/Users/rjp0i/demo/deeper
bash-4.2$ cd
bash-4.2$ pwd
/Users/rjp0i
```

- The tilda is a shorthand way to refer to the home directory

```
bash-4.2$ ls ~/demo
```

- Each file and each directory have a **name**. (Keep in mind that directories are actually files)
- A **short name** for a file could be **penguin**,
- while it's "**full name**" could be **/home/bird/penguin**
The **full name** is usually called the **path**.
- The **path** can be divided into a sequence of directories.
- For example, here is how **/home/bird/penguin** is read:

The **initial slash** indicates the **root directory**.

This signifies the **directory** called **home**. It is within the **root directory**.

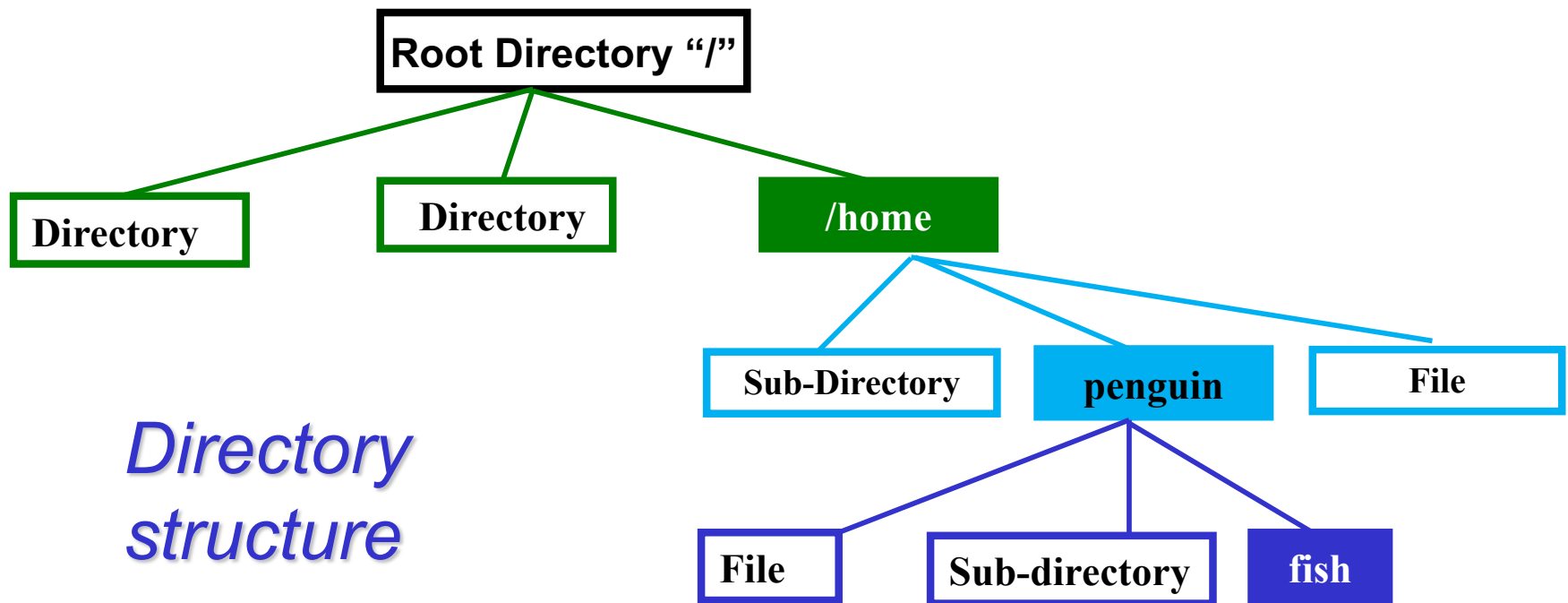
The **second slash** corresponds to the **directory** **bird**, which is within **home**.

penguin is within **bird**.

/home/bird/penguin



- A **path** may refer to either a **directory** or a **filename**, so **fish** could be either.
- All the items **before** the short name **must** be directories.



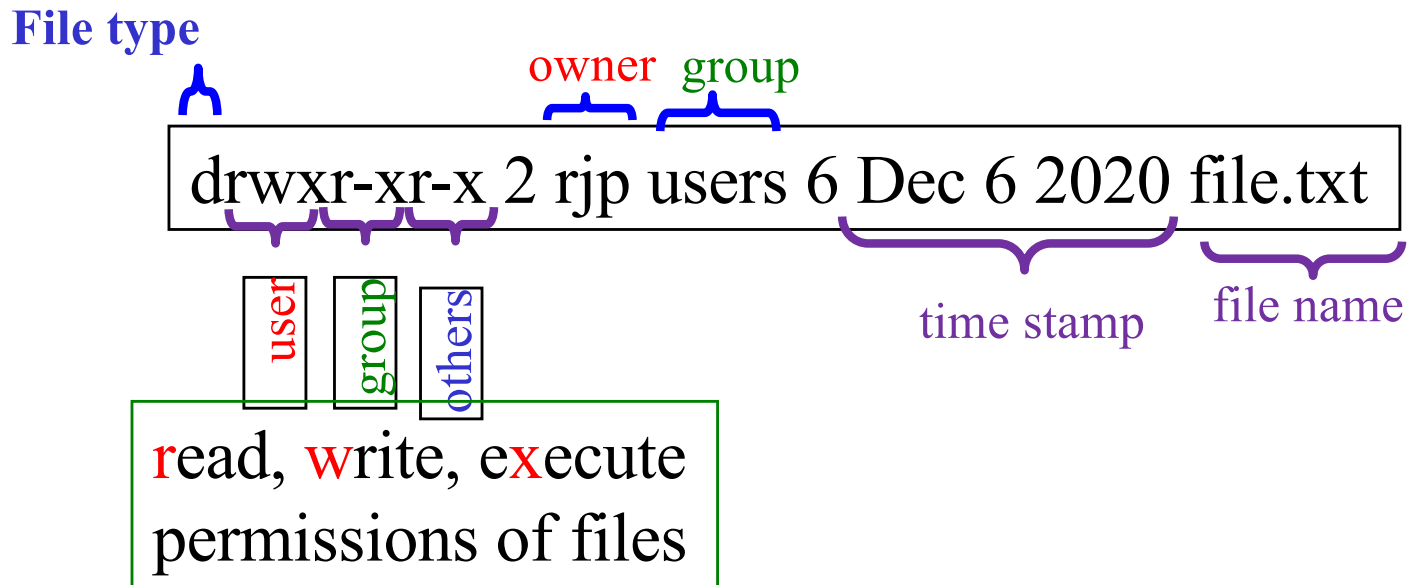
Navigating Directories

```
bash-3.2$ cd /home
```

```
bash-3.2$ cd
```

- Reminder: If you **omit the optional argument** *directory*, you're **returned to your home**, or original directory (the same as typing **cd ~**). Otherwise, **cd** will change you to the specified directory.
- There are two directory names used only for relative pathnames:
 - The directory “.” refers to the **current directory**
 - The directory “..” refers to the **parent directory** of the current directory
- The directory “..” is most useful moving back up a directory:
cd ..
- The command “**cd -**” will return you to the most recent directory visited.

Permissions



For each file, three sets of permissions bits (read, write, and execute) can be set. They apply to the three types of users. The **user** who owns the file, the **group** that owns the file, and everybody else (**other**) who has an account on the file system.

Permissions: chmod

- **chmod** (**ch**ange **mode**) is used to change the permissions on a file.

(owner) (group) (others)

chmod [number][number][number] file1

Number = (read)4 + (write)2 + (execute)1

- Example: **chmod 754 file1**

for owner: *read*, *write* and *execute* permissions (4+2+1)

for group: *read* and *execute* permissions (4+0+1)

for others: only *read* permission (4+0+0)

Moving around on the command line

- ***Ctrl+A*** Move to *beginning* of line
- ***Ctrl+E*** Move to *end* of line
- ***Ctrl+L*** Clear the screen
- ***Ctrl+U*** Clear the line *before* the cursor position
- ***Ctrl+K*** Clear the line *after* the cursor position
- ***Ctrl+C*** Kill the command that is currently running
- ***Ctrl+D*** Exit the current shell
- ***Alt+F (or Esc+F)*** Move cursor *forward* one word
- ***Alt+B (or Esc+B)*** Move cursor *backward* one word

Wildcards – Globbing

- *nix recognizes wildcards that allow it to match patterns to look for files with similar names. **ls *.txt** will return a list of all files in the current directory that have a filename ending in “.txt”
- The shell automatically expands the wildcard, and passes the resulting matches to the command (in this case, **ls**)

Match any string of characters.

?

Match any single character.

[abc]

Match a single a, b or c.

[a-zA-Z]

Match any character in the range a-z or A-Z.

Some Examples of Wild-card Matching:

```
~/demo> ls -l
```

```
total 2
```

```
-rw-rw-r-- 1 bkw1a bkw1a 0 Aug 6 18:42 a.1
-rw-rw-r-- 1 bkw1a bkw1a 0 Aug 6 18:42 b.1
-rw-rw-r-- 1 bkw1a bkw1a 0 Aug 6 18:42 c.1
-rw-rw-r-- 1 bkw1a bkw1a 466 Aug 6 17:48 t2.sh
-rw-rw-r-- 1 bkw1a bkw1a 758 Jul 30 09:02 test1.txt
```

```
~/demo> ls -l t?.sh
```

```
-rw-rw-r-- 1 bkw1a bkw1a 466 Aug 6 17:48 t2.sh
```

```
~/demo> ls -l [ab]*
```

```
-rw-rw-r-- 1 bkw1a bkw1a 0 Aug 6 18:42 a.1
-rw-rw-r-- 1 bkw1a bkw1a 0 Aug 6 18:42 b.1
```

```
~/demo> ls -l [a-c]*
```

```
-rw-rw-r-- 1 bkw1a bkw1a 0 Aug 6 18:42 a.1
-rw-rw-r-- 1 bkw1a bkw1a 0 Aug 6 18:42 b.1
-rw-rw-r-- 1 bkw1a bkw1a 0 Aug 6 18:42 c.1
```

Getting Help

man

- The **man** command displays **reference pages** for the **command** you specify.
- The *nix **man** pages (**man** is short for *manual*) cover every command available.
- To search for a **man** page, enter **man** followed by the name of the command.
- For example:

```
[bash-4.2$ man ls
```

NAME

ls -- list directory contents

SYNOPSIS

ls [-ABCFGHLOPRSTUW@abcdefghijklmnopqrstuw~~x~~1%] [file ...]

DESCRIPTION

For each operand that names a file of a type other than directory, **ls** displays its name as well as any requested, associated information. For each operand that names a file of type directory, **ls** displays the names of files contained within that directory, as well as any requested, associated information.

If no operands are given, the contents of the current directory are displayed. If more than one operand is given, non-directory operands are displayed first; directory and non-directory operands are sorted separately and in lexicographical order.

The following options are available:

:

To view more, press spacebar
To exit, press "q"

Getting Help: man

- There is also a **keyword function** in **man**.
- For example;
 - If you are interested in any commands that deal with **Postscript**, the printer control language for Adobe
 - Type **man -k ps** or **man -k Postscript**,
you'll get a listing of all commands, system calls, and other documented parts of *nix that have the word "ps" (or "Postscript") in their name or short description.
- This can be very useful when you're looking for a tool to do something, but you don't know its name - or if it even exists!

Navigating Directories

pwd

- **pwd** (**p**resent **w**orking **d**irectory) tells you your current directory.
 - *Note: Most commands act, by default, on the current directory. For instance, **ls** without any arguments displays the contents of the current directory.*

cd

- **cd** is used to **c**hange **d**irectories.
- The format of this command :
cd new-directory (where new-directory is the name of the new directory you want).

mkdir

mkdir (**make directory**) is used to create a new directory,

- It can take more than one argument, interpreting each argument as another directory to create.
- By default, it will create the new directory as a subdirectory of the current directory

rmdir

rmdir (**remove directory**) is used to remove a directory,

- **rmdir** will refuse to remove a **non-existent directory**, as well as a **directory that has anything in it**.

Moving Files/Directories

- The primary commands for manipulating files under *nix are **cp**, **mv**, and **rm**. They stand for **copy**, **move**, and **remove**, respectively.

cp

- **cp** is used to copy contents of file1 to file2

cp file1 file2 (*contents of file1 is copied to file2 in the same directory*)

cp folder1/file1 folder2 (*contents of file1 is copied to file1 in the inside of folder2 directory*)

rm

- **rm** is used to **remove** a file.
 - **rm filename** ---> removes a file named *filename*

mv

- **mv** is used to **move** a file.
 - **mv filename /path/newname** ---> moves a file named *filename* to a new location, with a new name
- looks like **cp**, except that it **deletes the original file** after copying it.
- **mv** will **rename** a file if the second argument is a **file**. If the second argument is a **directory**, **mv** will **move** the file to the **new directory**, keeping it's shortname the same.

Operating on Files

- In addition to the commands like **cd**, **mv**, and **rm**, we learned in the directories discussion, there are other commands that just operate on files, but not the data in them.
- These include **touch**, **chmod**.
- None of these commands care what is within the file.

Examining Files

- There are two major commands used in *nix for listing files, **cat**, and **more** (and **less**). **head** and **tail** are also useful.

cat

- **cat** shows the contents of the file.

cat [-nA] [file1 file2 . . . fileN]

- **cat** is not a user-friendly command-it doesn't wait for you to read the file and is mostly used in conjunction with pipes.
- However, **cat** does have some useful command-line options. For instance, **n** will number all the lines in the file, and **A** will show control characters.

Examining Files: more and less

more

- **more** is much more useful, and is the command that you'll want to use when browsing ASCII text files

more [-l] [+linenumber}] [file1 file2 ... fileN]

- A useful option is **l**, which will tell **more** that you aren't interested in treating the character `Ctrl-L` as a ``new page'' character. **more** can also start on a specified line number.

less

less is similar to **more** but also allows you to scroll backwards or forward through a file. **less** also quickly loads a file and can operate on a file that is still being written to.

less > more or “**less** is **more**, more or less”

Examining Files: head and tail

head

head will display the first ten lines in the listed files.

head [- *lines*] [*file1 file2 ... fileN*]

- Any numeric option will be taken as the number of lines to print, so **head -15 frog** will print the first fifteen lines of the file *frog*

tail

- Like **head**, **tail** display only a fraction of the file.
- **tail** also accepts an option specifying the number of lines.

tail [-*lines*] [*file1 file2 ... fileN*]

More info about the file

These commands will search a file, perform certain operations on the file, or display statistics about the file.

grep

- **grep** is the **g**eneralized **r**egular **e**xpression **p**arser.
- This is a fancy name for a powerful utility which can only search a text file.

grep [-nvwx] [-number] { *expression* } [*file1 file2 ... fileN*]

More info about the file

diff

- The GNU version of **diff** has over twenty command line options. It shows you what the differences are between two files
- **diff** *file1 file2*

Some Other *nix Commands

The Power of *nix

- The power of *nix is hidden in small commands that don't seem too useful when used alone, but when **combined** with other commands produce a system that's much more powerful, and flexible than most other operating systems.
- The commands include **sort, grep, more, cat, wc, spell, diff, head, and tail.**

Common Text Editors

nano

- **nano** is a simple text editor. There are many text editors available. But nano is simple:
 - **nano file**

vi (vim)

- **vi** is the original Unix “visual editor” and is available on all *nix computers (but can be non-intuitive). Like emacs, it is context aware (autocompletion, indentation and color coding of text). A self-professed great Vim cheat sheet:
<http://vimsheet.com/>

emacs

- **emacs** is a very powerful, extensible editor. Emacs and vi are among the most commonly used editors.
Emacs cheat sheet:

<https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/refcards/pdf/refcard.pdf>

More help

- Chapter 1 of **Computing Skills for Biologists** (Allesina & Wilmes)

- [See Virgo for free access to ebook](#)

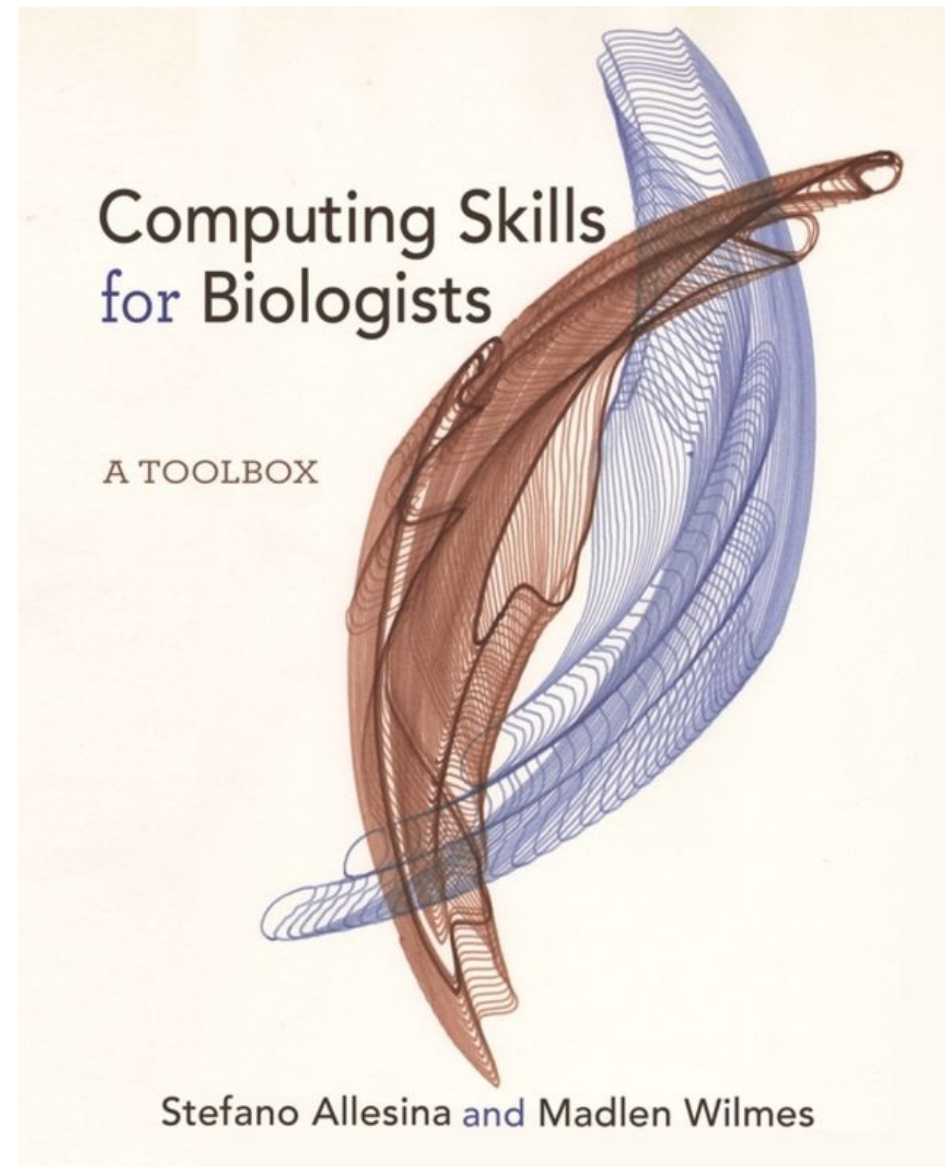
- See website for downloads

- <https://computingskillsforbiologists.com>

- Clone their git repository for examples:

- `git clone https://github.com/CSB-book/CSB.git`

This book is not just for biologists but is valuable for graduate students in any datacentric field. It covers R, Python, Regular Expressions, version control, LaTeX, SQL, and the command line.



More help

- **LinkedIn Learning** free courses, including:
 - “Learning Linux Command Line”
 - “Unix for Mac OS X Users”
 - Be sure to access LL materials for free by using this Library link to take advantage of the UVA subscription:
<https://library.virginia.edu/linkedin-learning>
- Lots of online resources (unix.stackexchange...)
- <http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~wjk/UnixIntro/>
- Me – Please contact me (ricky@virginia.edu)