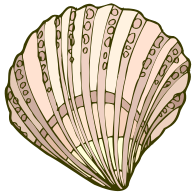
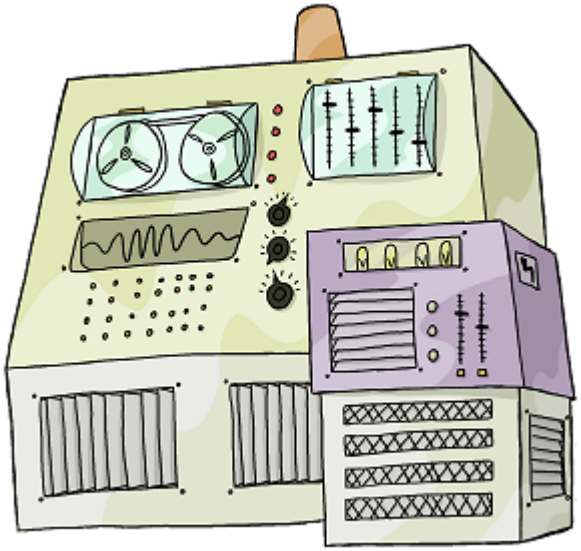
Science & Technology Facilities Council | UK Research and Innovation | NERC SCIENCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

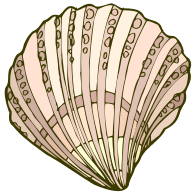
The Unix Shell

Finding Things



shell





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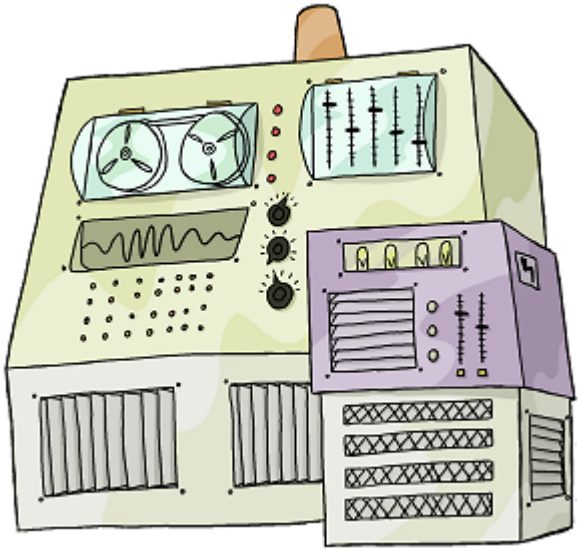
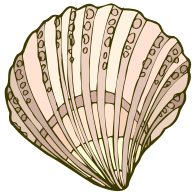
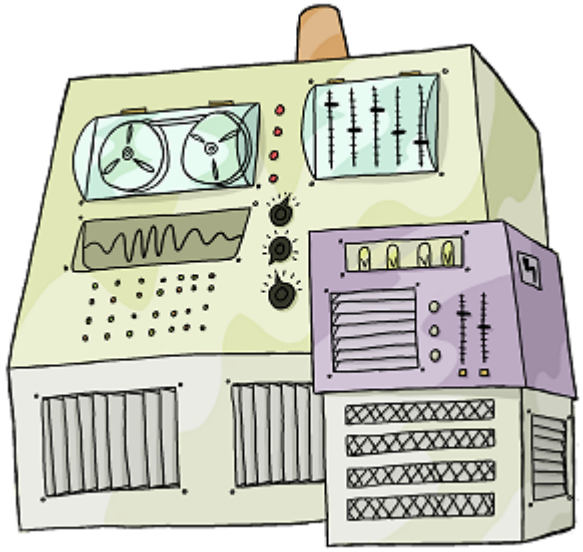


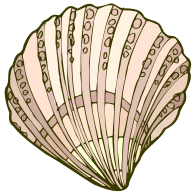


shell

Let's Google

for that

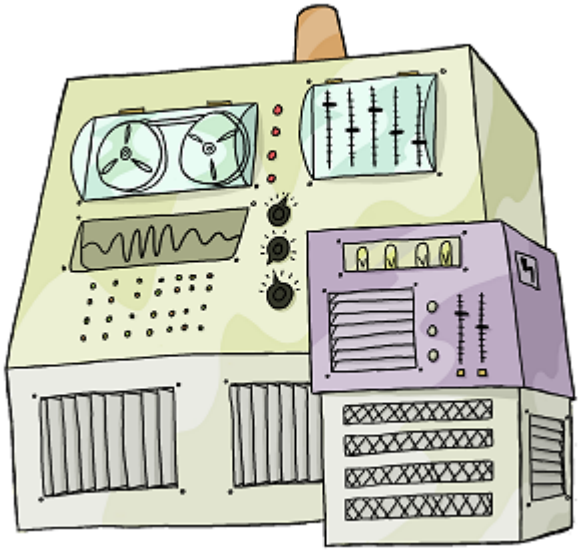




shell

Let's grep

for that



grep: global / regular expression / print

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Finds and prints lines in files that match a pattern

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```
The Tao that is seen
Is not the true Tao, until
You bring fresh toner.

With searching comes loss
and the presence of absence:
"My Thesis" not found.

Yesterday it worked
Today it is not working
Software is like that.
```

haiku.txt

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$ grep not haiku.txt
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Pattern

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Pattern

Every letter matches itself

grep: global / regular expression / print

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Files(s)

grep: global / regular expression / print

Finds and prints lines in files that match a pattern

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```
$ grep day haiku.txt
Yesterday it worked
Today it is not working
$
```

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```

```
$ grep day haiku.txt
Yesterday it worked
Today it is not working
$ grep -w day haiku.txt
$
```

Match whole words

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```

```
$ grep day haiku.txt
Yesterday it worked
Today it is not working
$ grep -w day haiku.txt
$ grep -n it haiku.txt
```

Prefix matches with line numbers

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$ grep day haiku.txt
Yesterday it worked
Today it is not working
$ grep -w day haiku.txt
$ grep -n it haiku.txt
5:With searching comes loss
9:Yesterday it worked
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Use multiple flags

to combine effects

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```

```
$ grep -i -v the haiku.txt
You bring fresh toner.

With searching comes loss

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Today it is not working
Software is like that.
$
```

```
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```
$ grep -i -v the haiku.txt
You bring fresh toner.

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```

-i case insensitive

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```
$ grep -i -v the haiku.txt
You bring fresh toner.

With searching comes loss

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```

-i case insensitive

-v invert and print

non-matches

Many more options

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Use `man` `grep` to get help

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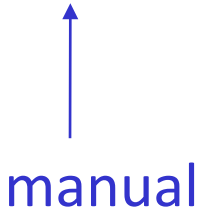

Many more options

Use `man` `grep` to get help

Complex patterns use regular expressions

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(The 're' in `grep`)

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Ideas are covered in a separate lecture

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Complex patterns use regular expressions

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Ideas are covered in a separate lecture

`grep`'s regular expressions are slightly different

from those provided in most programming languages

Many more options

Use `man grep` to get help

Complex patterns use regular expressions

(The 're' in `grep`)

Ideas are covered in a separate lecture

`grep`'s regular expressions are slightly different

from those provided in most programming languages

But the ideas are the same

`find`: finds files (rather than lines in files)

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Again, too many options to cover here

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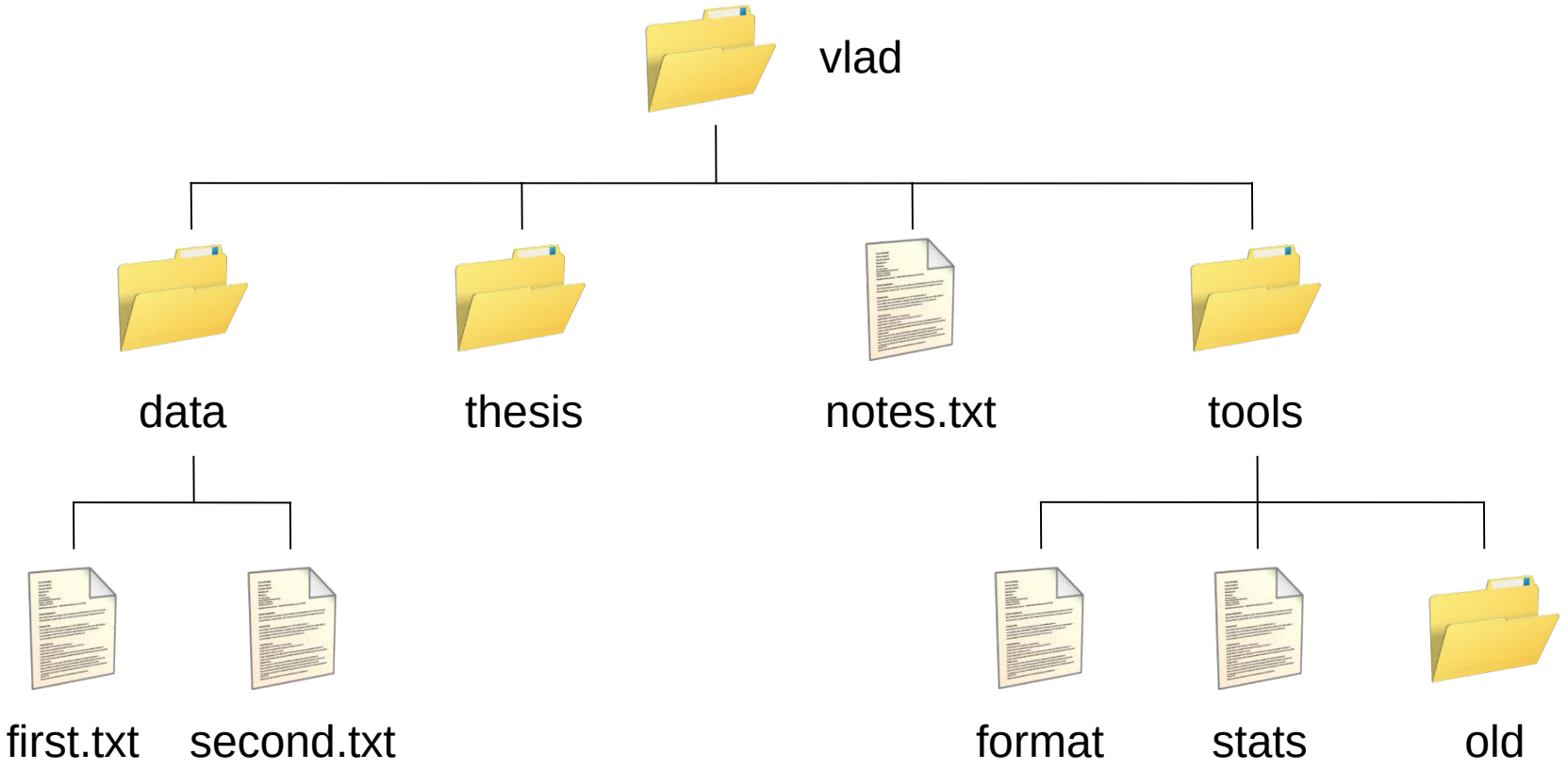

`find`: finds files (rather than lines in files)

Again, too many options to cover here

```
./
+-- data/
|   +-- first.txt
|   +-- second.txt
+-- notes.txt
+-- thesis/
+-- tools/
    +-- format*
    +-- old/
    +-- stats*
```

`find`: finds files (rather than lines in files)

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|   +-- first.txt
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Trailing / shows directories

`find`: finds files (rather than lines in files)

Again, too many options to cover here

```
./
+-- data/
|   +-- first.txt
|   +-- second.txt
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+-- thesis/
+-- tools/
    +-- format*
    +-- old/
    +-- stats*
```
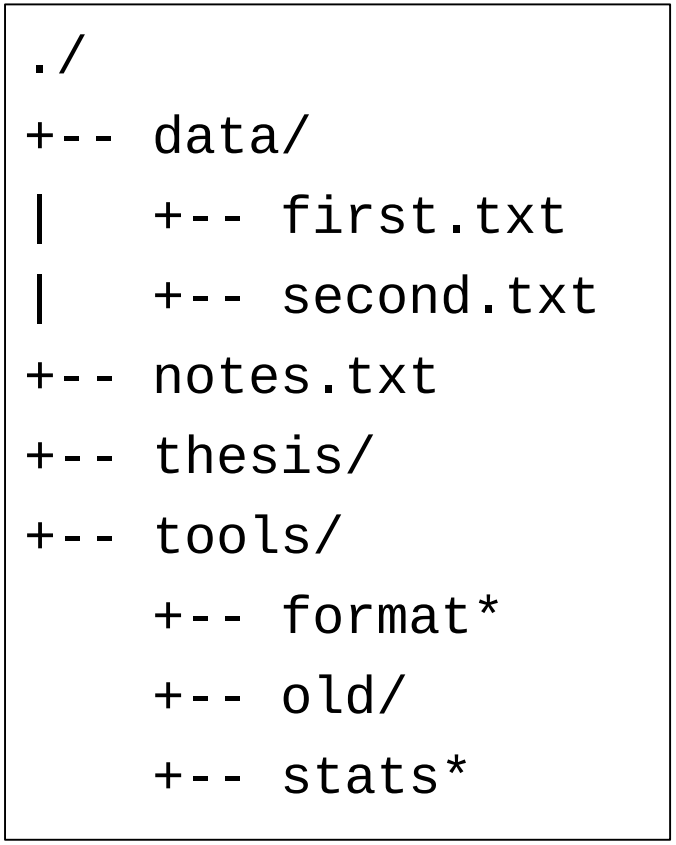

Trailing / shows directories

Trailing * shows executables


./
+-- data/
| +-- first.txt
| +-- second.txt
+-- notes.txt
+-- thesis/
+-- tools/
    +-- format*
    +-- old/
    +-- stats*

```
$ find . -type d
```

```
./
+-- data/
|   +-- first.txt
|   +-- second.txt
+-- notes.txt
+-- thesis/
+-- tools/
    +-- format*
    +-- old/
    +-- stats*
```

```
$ find . -type d
```

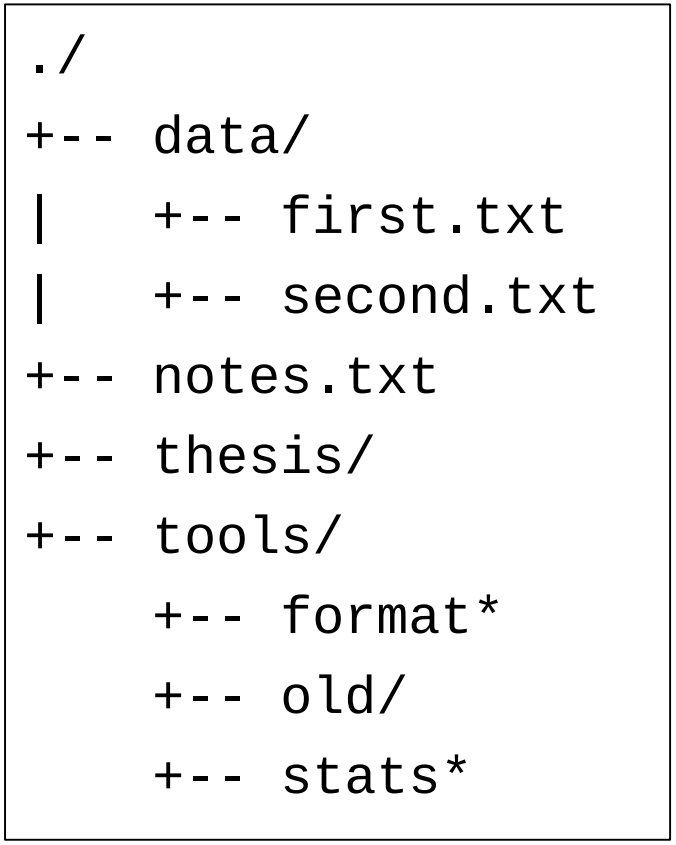
Root directory of search

```
./
+-- data/
|   +-- first.txt
|   +-- second.txt
+-- notes.txt
+-- thesis/
+-- tools/
    +-- format*
    +-- old/
    +-- stats*
```

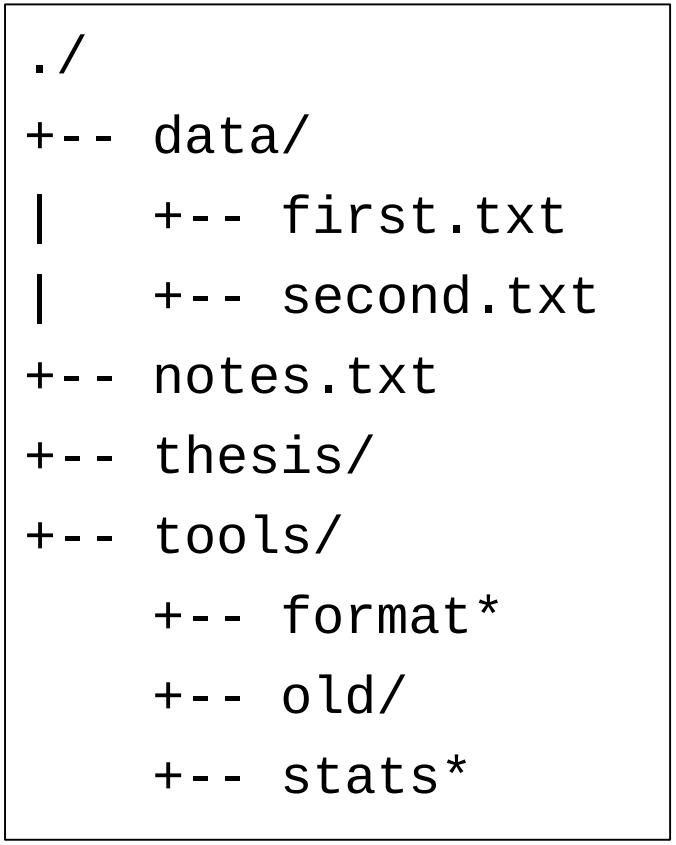
```
$ find . -type d
```

Things of type 'd'

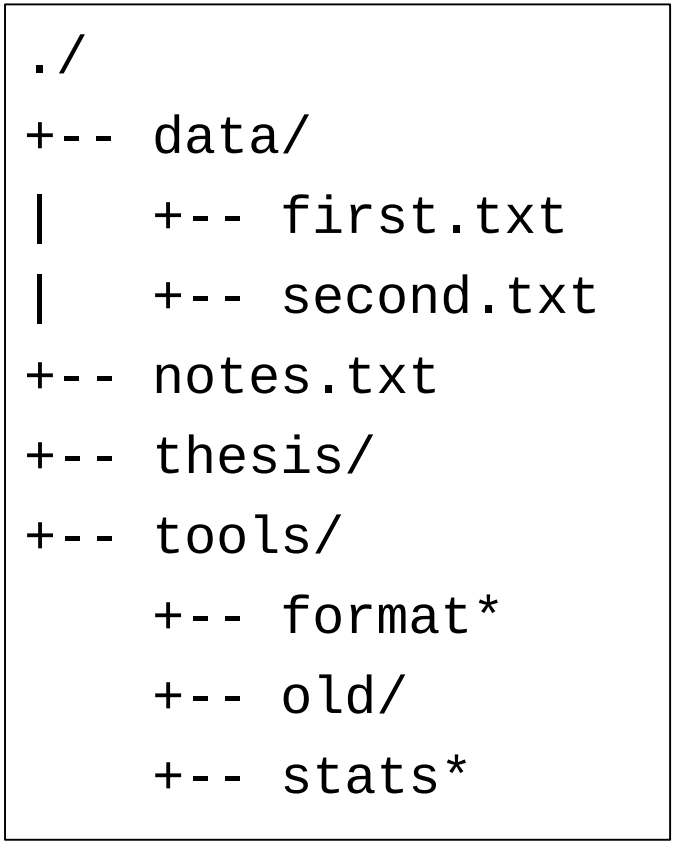
(directory)




```
$ find . -type d
./
./data
./thesis
./tools
./tools/old
$
```




```
$ find . -type d
./
./data
./thesis
./tools
./tools/old
$ find . -type f
./data/first.txt
./data/second.txt
./notes.txt
./tools/format
./tools/stats
$
```




```
$ find . -maxdepth 1 -type f
./notes.txt
$
```

```
./
+-- data/
|   +-- first.txt
|   +-- second.txt
+-- notes.txt
+-- thesis/
+-- tools/
    +-- format*
    +-- old/
    +-- stats*
```

```
$ find . -maxdepth 1 -type f
./notes.txt
$ find . -mindepth 2 -type f
./data/first.txt
./data/second.txt
./tools/format
./tools/stats
$
```

```
./
+-- data/
|   +-- first.txt
|   +-- second.txt
+-- notes.txt
+-- thesis/
+-- tools/
    +-- format*
    +-- old/
    +-- stats*
```

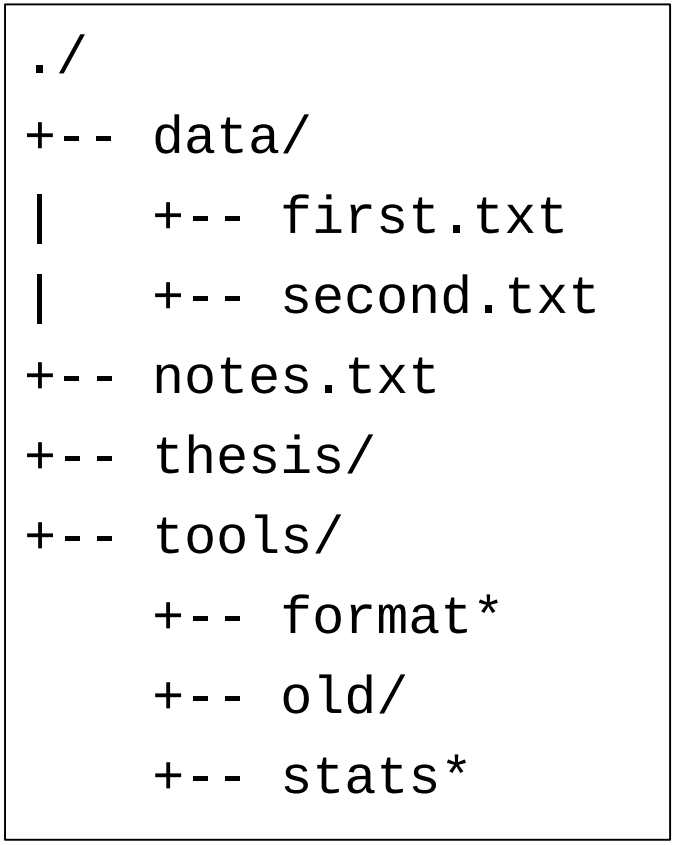
```
$ find . -maxdepth 1 -type f
./notes.txt
$ find . -mindepth 2 -type f
./data/first.txt
./data/second.txt
./tools/format
./tools/stats
$ find . -empty
./thesis
./tools/old
$
```

```
./
+-- data/
|   +-- first.txt
|   +-- second.txt
+-- notes.txt
+-- thesis/
+-- tools/
    +-- format*
    +-- old/
    +-- stats*
```

```
$ find . -perm -u=x
./data
./thesis
./tools
./tools/format
./tools/old
./tools/stats
$
```

```
./
+-- data/
|   +-- first.txt
|   +-- second.txt
+-- notes.txt
+-- thesis/
+-- tools/
    +-- format*
    +-- old/
    +-- stats*
```

```
$ find . -perm -u=x
./data
./thesis
./tools
./tools/format
./tools/old
./tools/stats
$ find . -perm -u=x -type f
./tools/format
./tools/stats
$
```




```
$ find . -name *.txt
./notes.txt
$
```

```
./
+-- data/
|   +-- first.txt
|   +-- second.txt
+-- notes.txt
+-- thesis/
+-- tools/
    +-- format*
    +-- old/
    +-- stats*
```

```
$ find . -name *.txt
./notes.txt
$
```

* expanded by shell

before command runs

```
./
+-- data/
|   +-- first.txt
|   +-- second.txt
+-- notes.txt
+-- thesis/
+-- tools/
    +-- format*
    +-- old/
    +-- stats*
```

```
$ find . -name notes.txt
./notes.txt
$
```

* expanded by shell *before* command runs

This is the actual command

```
./
+-- data/
|   +-- first.txt
|   +-- second.txt
+-- notes.txt
+-- thesis/
+-- tools/
    +-- format*
    +-- old/
    +-- stats*
```

```
$ find . -name *.txt
./notes.txt
$ find . -name '*.txt'
```

Single quotes prevent shell from expanding wildcards

```
./
+-- data/
|   +-- first.txt
|   +-- second.txt
+-- notes.txt
+-- thesis/
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```

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$ find . -name *.txt
./notes.txt
$ find . -name '*.txt'
```

Single quotes prevent shell from expanding wildcards

So find gets the pattern

```
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+-- notes.txt
+-- thesis/
+-- tools/
    +-- format*
    +-- old/
    +-- stats*
```

```
$ find . -name *.txt
./notes.txt
$ find . -name '*.txt'
./data/first.txt
./data/second.txt
./notes.txt
$
```

The command line's power lies in *combining* tools

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```
$ find . -name '*.txt'
./data/first.txt
./data/second.txt
./notes.txt
$
```

The command line's power lies in *combining* tools

```
$ find . -name '*.txt'
./data/first.txt
./data/second.txt
./notes.txt
$ wc -l `find . -name '*.txt'`
```

The command line's power lies in *combining* tools

```
$ find . -name '*.txt'
./data/first.txt
./data/second.txt
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$ wc -l `find . -name '*.txt'`
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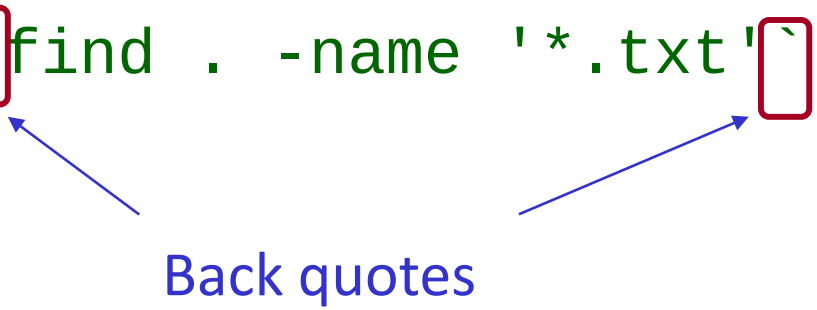

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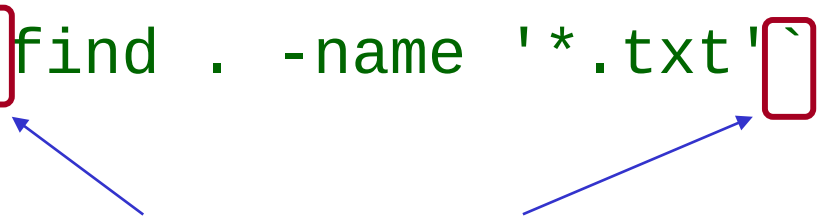
```
$ find . -name '*.txt'
./data/first.txt
./data/second.txt
./notes.txt
$ wc -l `find . -name '*.txt'`
```

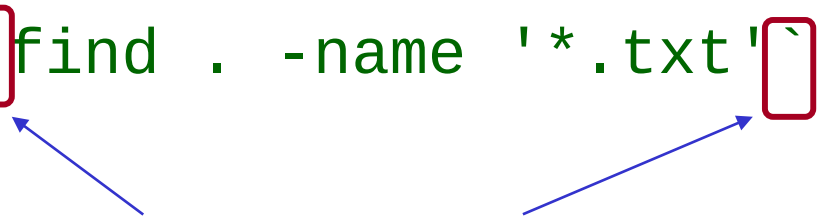


Back quotes

Replace what's inside with output from running that command

The command line's power lies in *combining* tools

```
$ find . -name '*.txt'
./data/first.txt
./data/second.txt
./notes.txt
$ wc -l `find . -name '*.txt'`
```



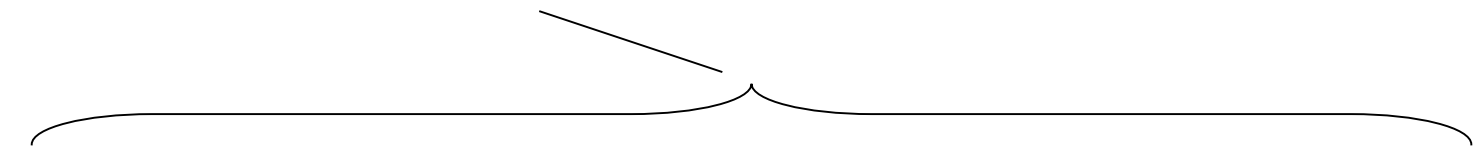
Back quotes

Replace what's inside with output from running that command

Like wildcards * and ?, but more flexible

The command line's power lies in *combining* tools

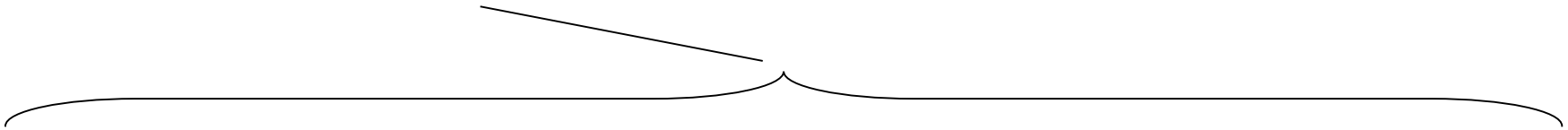
```
$ find . -name '*.txt'
./data/first.txt
./data/second.txt
./notes.txt
$ wc -l `find . -name '*.txt'`
```



```
./data/first.txt ./data/second.txt ./notes.txt
```

The command line's power lies in *combining* tools

```
$ find . -name '*.txt'
./data/first.txt
./data/second.txt
./notes.txt
$ wc -l `find . -name '*.txt'`
```



```
$ wc -l ./data/first.txt ./data/second.txt ./notes.txt
```

The command line's power lies in *combining* tools

```
$ find . -name '*.txt'
./data/first.txt
./data/second.txt
./notes.txt
$ wc -l `find . -name '*.txt'`
  70  ./data/first.txt
 420  ./data/second.txt
  30  ./notes.txt
 520  total
$
```

Use `find` and `grep` together

Use `find` and `grep` together

```
$ grep FE `find . -name '*.pdb'`
./human/heme.pdb:ATOM  25  FE  1  -0.924  0.535  -0.518
$
```

What if your data isn't text?

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Images, databases, spreadsheets…

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1. Teach standard tools about all these formats

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   Hasn't happened, and probably won't

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2. Convert data to text (or extract text from data)

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   Simple things are easy

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   Simple things are easy

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3. Use a programming language

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Images, databases, spreadsheets…

1. Teach standard tools about all these formats

   Hasn't happened, and probably won't

2. Convert data to text (or extract text from data)

   Simple things are easy

   Complex things are impossible

3. Use a programming language

   Many have borrowed ideas from the shell

created by

Greg Wilson

August 2010