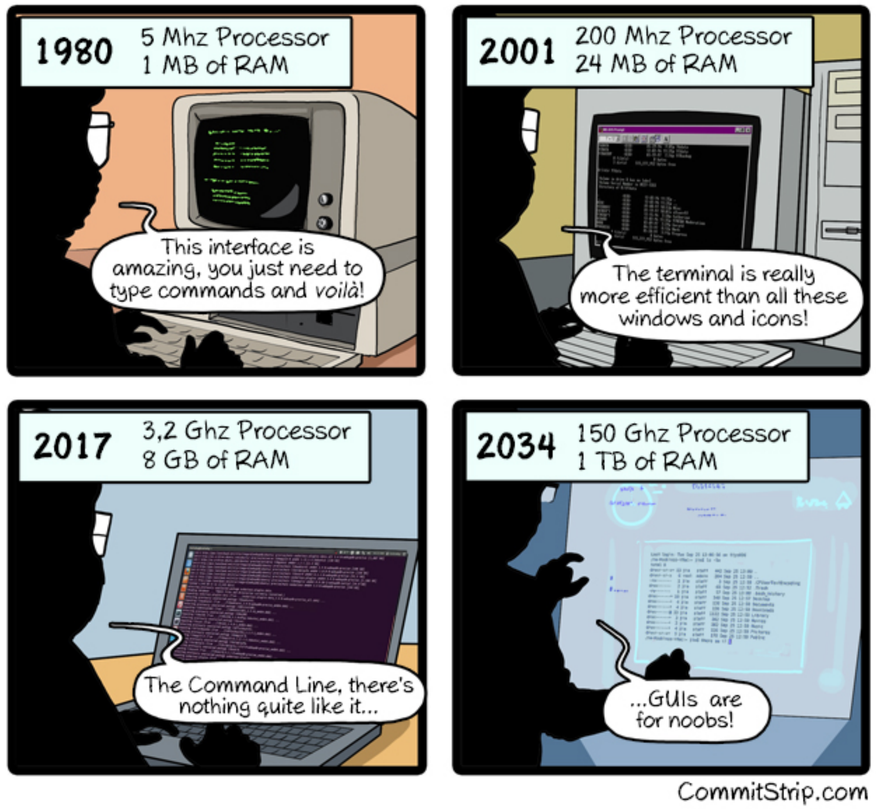
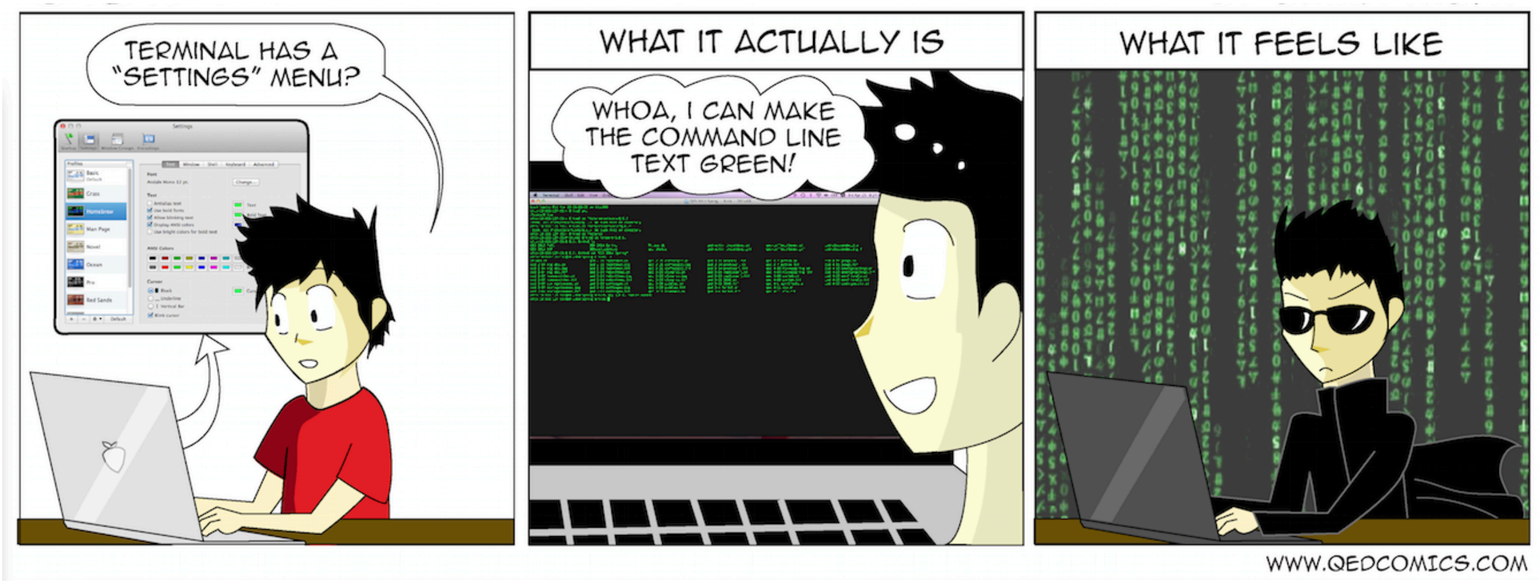
Interacting with the Shell

Spring 2021
PCfB Class 2
January 22, 2021





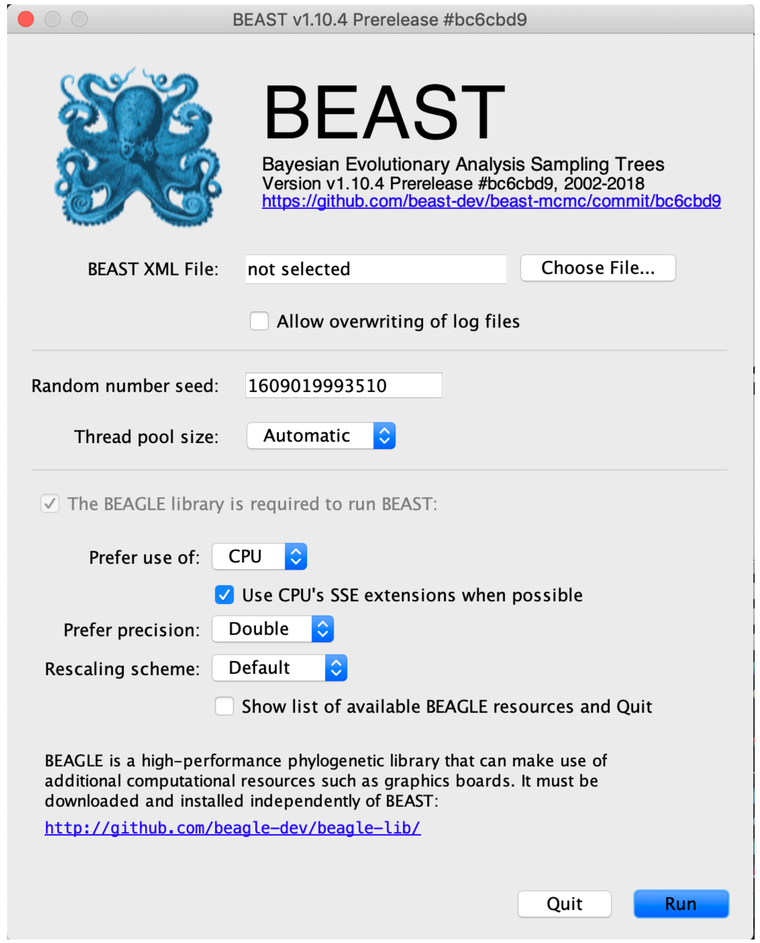
Outline

- Intro to Unix shell
- Configuration files
- Useful commands
- Exercises

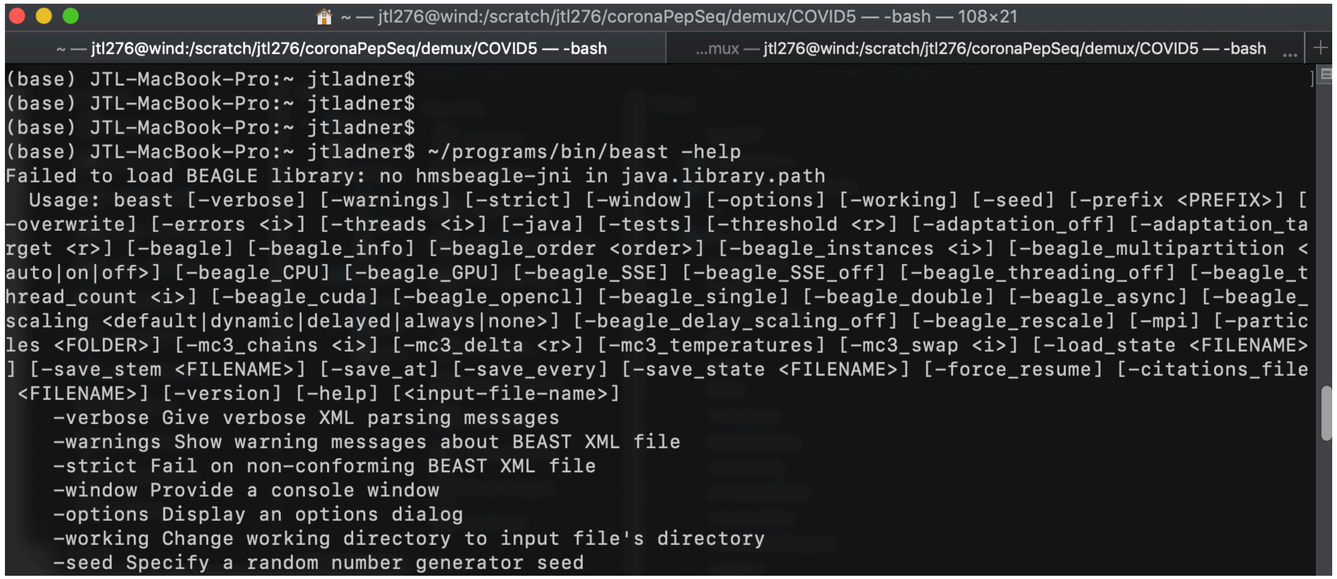
Intro to unix shell

GUI vs. Command line

Graphical user interface



Command line/Terminal



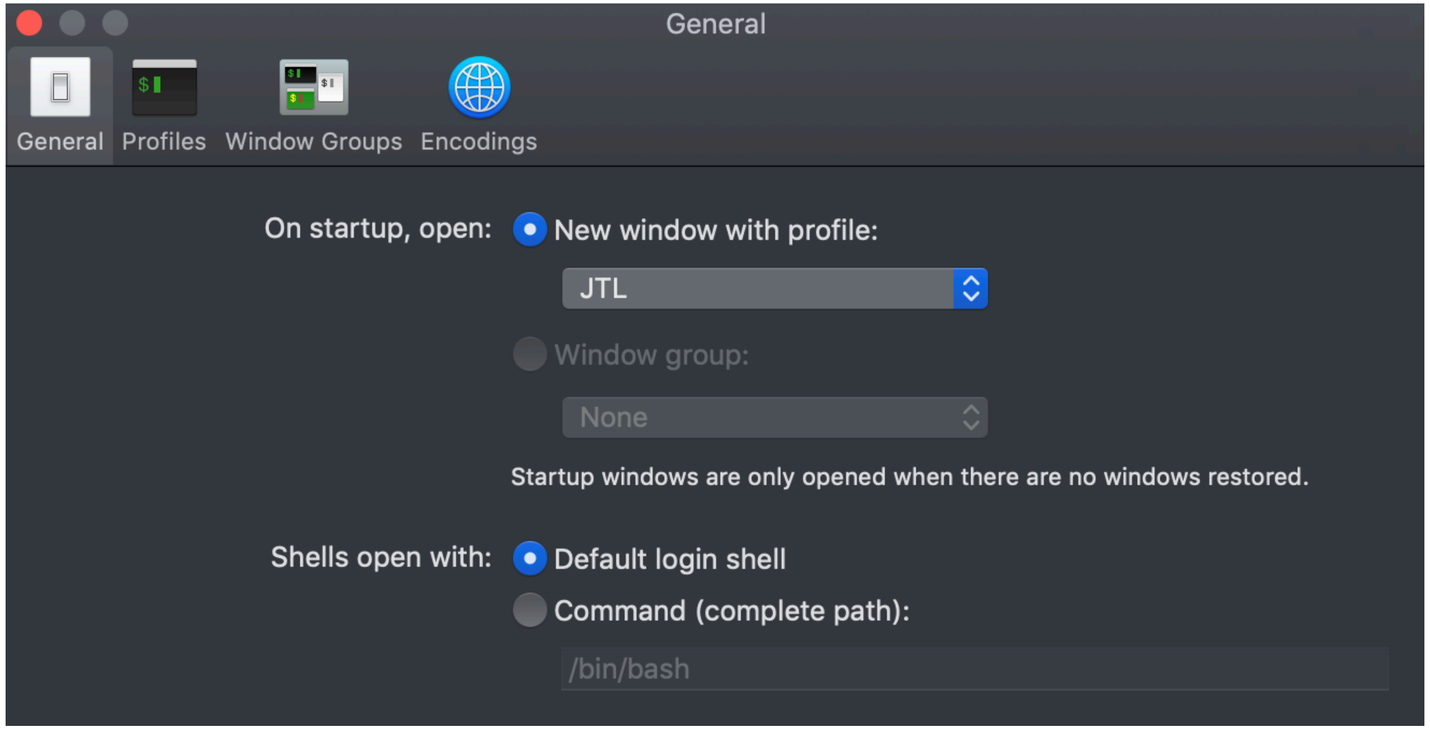
Unix Shell

- Command-line interpreter
- A programming language
- Commands can be entered by a user or read from a file

Available shells on my computer

```
[mggen115:combo jtladner$ ls -l /bin/*sh*
-r-xr-xr-x  1 root  wheel   618448 Oct 25  2017 /bin/bash
-rwxr-xr-x  1 root  wheel   380016 Mar 27 21:03 /bin/csh
-r-xr-xr-x  1 root  wheel  1287040 Oct 25  2017 /bin/ksh
-r-xr-xr-x  1 root  wheel   618512 Oct 25  2017 /bin/sh
-rwxr-xr-x  1 root  wheel   380016 Mar 27 21:03 /bin/tcsh
-rwxr-xr-x  1 root  wheel   610288 Oct 25  2017 /bin/zsh
```

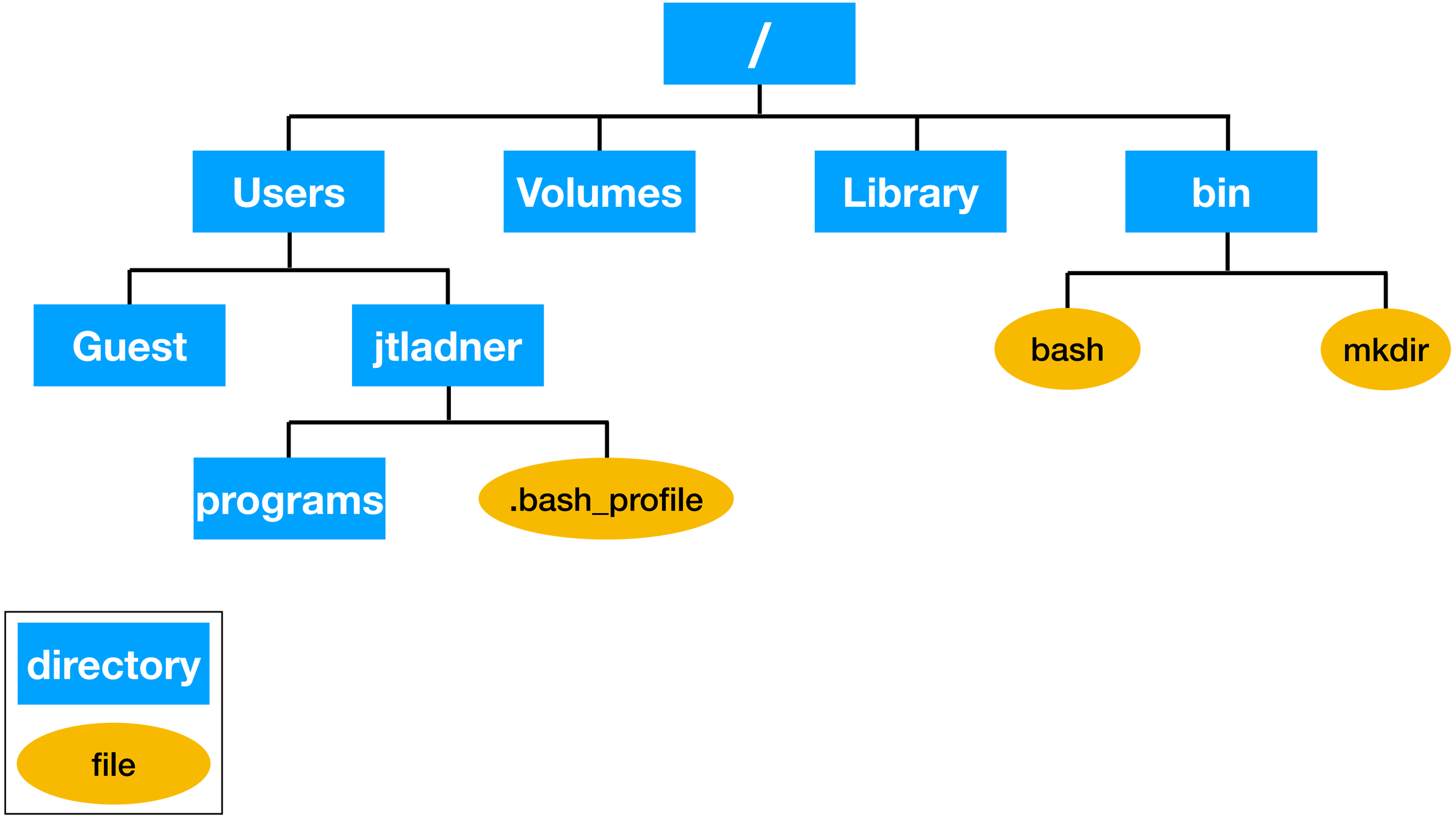
Can easily change default shell



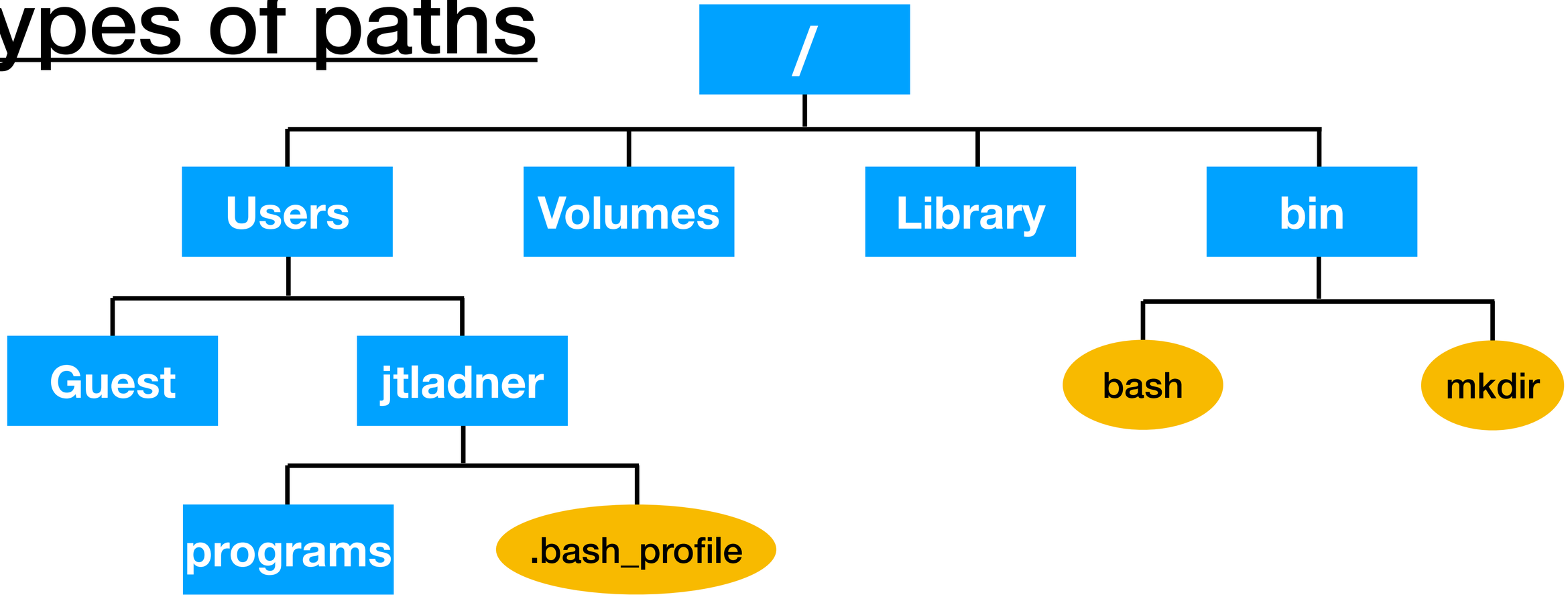
Be careful!

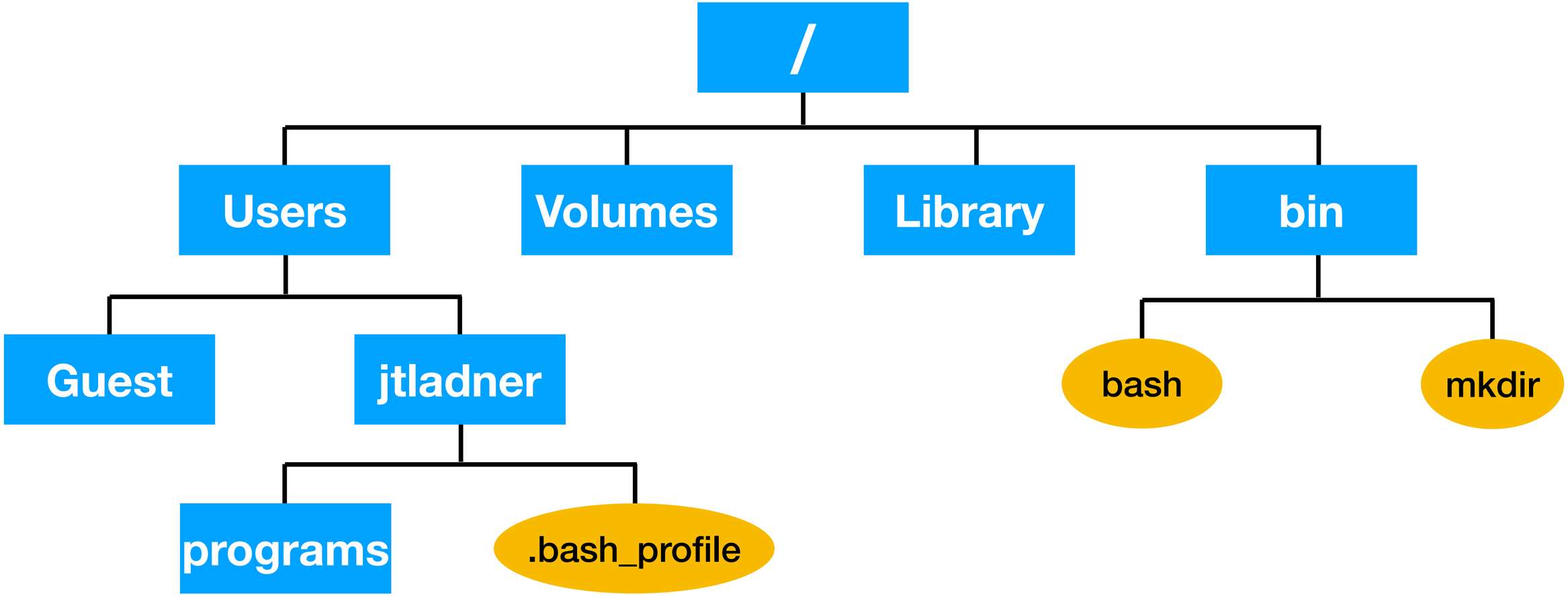
- The shell will not ask for confirmation before permanently deleting files from your computer
- Deleted files are NOT moved to the trash
- No Undo (ctrl-z)

Filesystem structure


/
Users
Volumes
Library
bin
Guest
jtladner
bash
mkdir
programs
.bash_profile
directory
file

Types of paths

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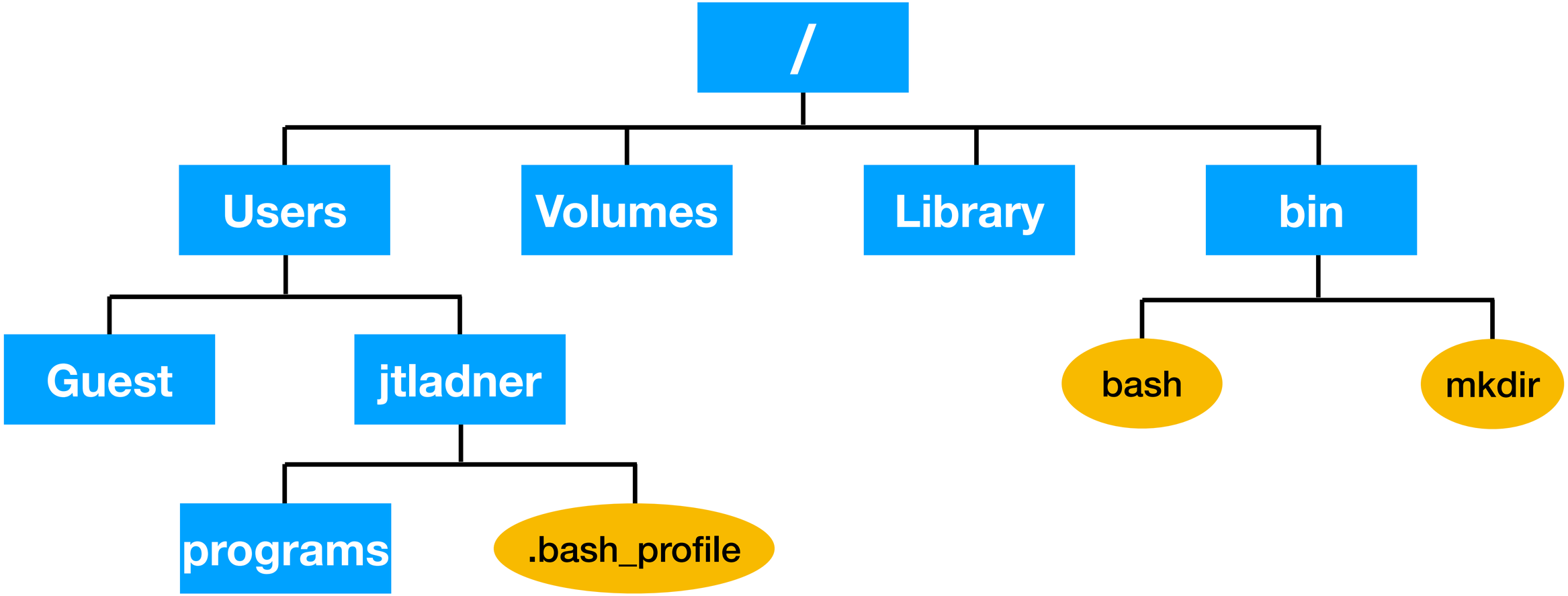
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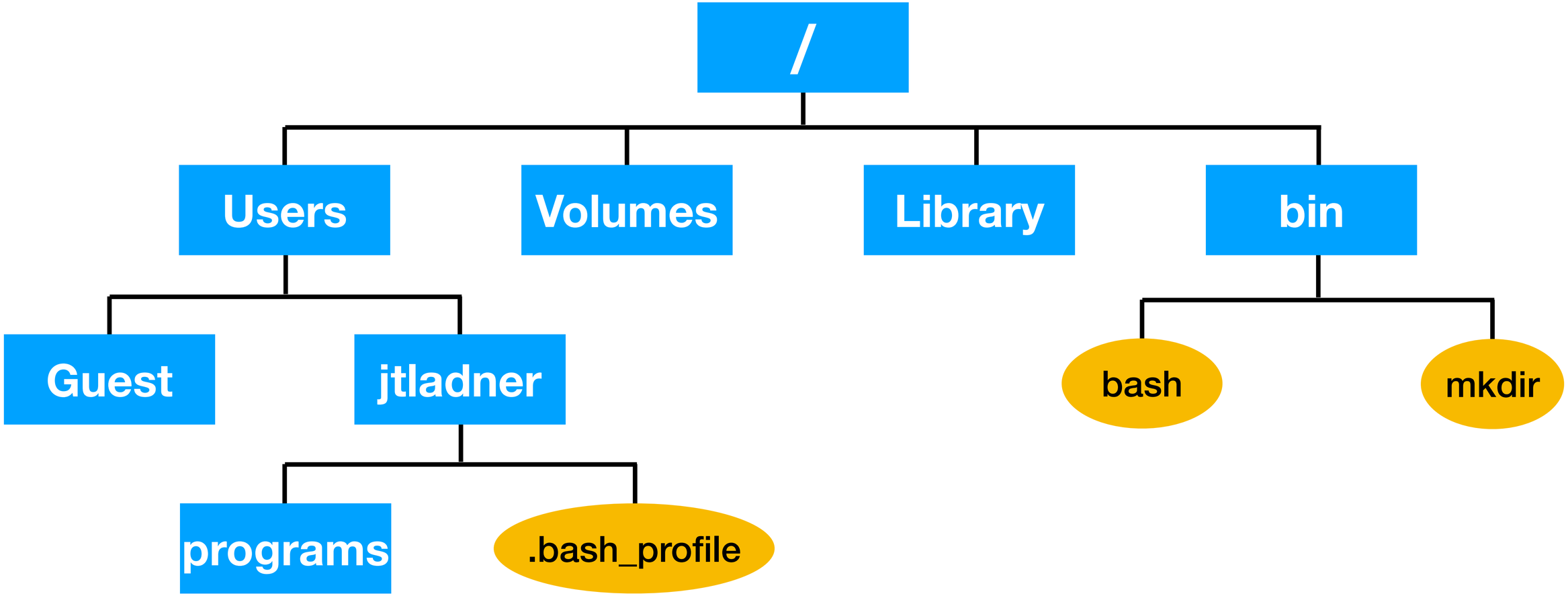
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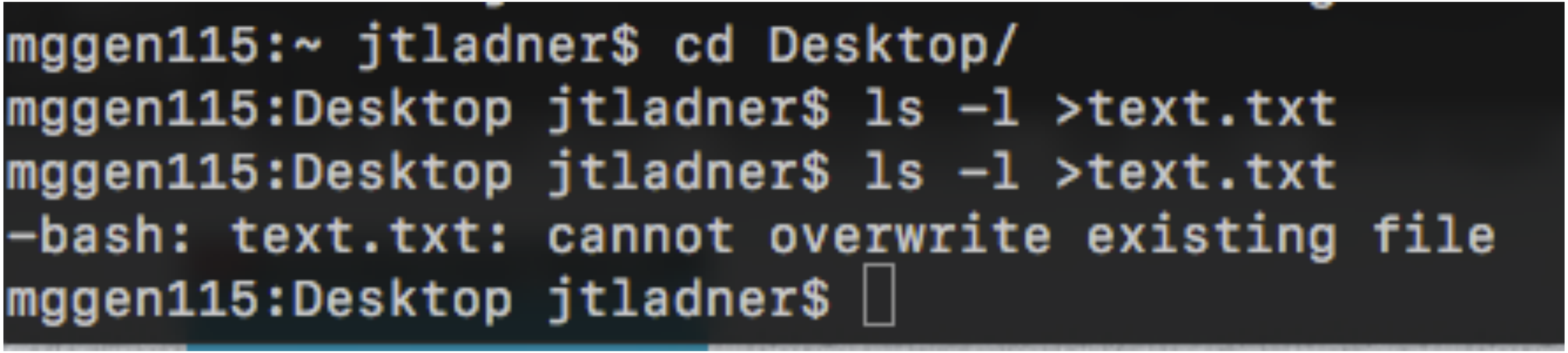
Configuration files

Practically speaking…

- For Mac OSX:
  - You only need .bash_profile
  - Terminal.app runs login shell for each new window, by default
- For Linux:
  - Use .bashrc for most settings
  - Execute .bashrc within .bash_profile (instructions on GitHub)

set -o noclobber

- Protects you from accidentally overwriting files that already exist

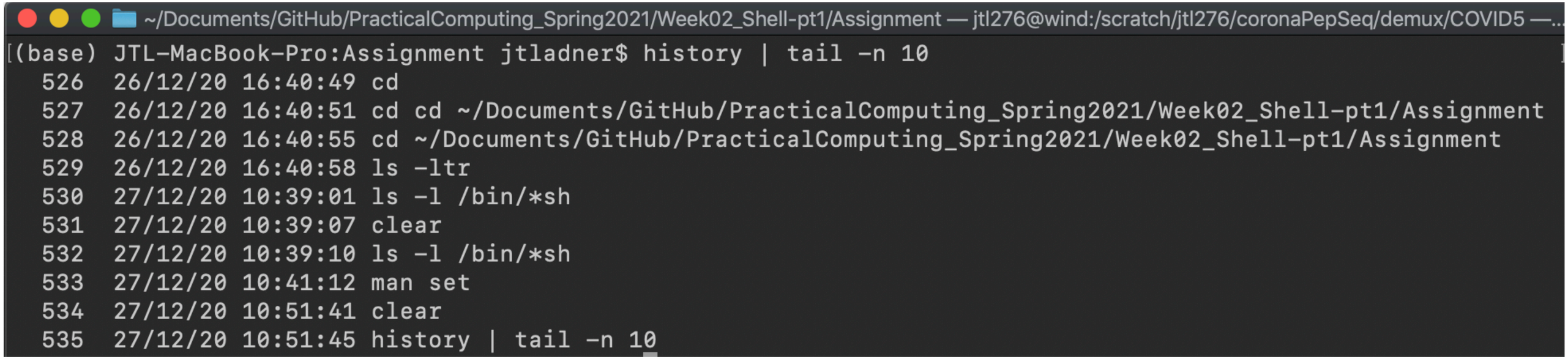


```
bind '"\e[A": history-search-backward'
bind '"\e[B": history-search-forward'
```

- Subtle change to behavior of up and down arrow keys
- Still scroll through command history…
  - but now if you start typing a command, you will only scroll through commands that match what you have started typing

`HISTTIMEFORMAT="%d/%m/%y %T "`

- Adds time stamp to each command from `history`



`source` command

- Changes to your .bash_profile/.bashrc will not automatically take effect within your current session
- 2 options:
  1. Open a new terminal window
  2. `source ~/.bash_profile`

Configuration demo

Useful commands

Getting around

```
pwd

 ls

 cd
```

Create/modify/delete files

`cp`

`mv`

`rm`

Create/delete directories

`mkdir`

`rmdir`

history

| (pipe)

Commands covered in reading

Getting around

- `cd`
- `ls`
- `pwd`

Creating/deleting files

- `cp`
- `mkdir`
- `mv`
- `rmdir`
- `rm`

Other

- `grep`
- `cat`
- `curl`
- `man (-k)`
- `history`

View/edit text

- `less`
- `nano/pico`

Data flow

- `>`
- `|`
- `>>`

Questions?

Other useful commands

Extracting parts of files

`head`

`tail`

Quantify file contents

`wc`

`grep -c`

rename

Keyboard shortcuts

ctrl-a

ctrl-e

ctrl-u

ctrl-k

Terminal demos

Assignment