Shell Scripting

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Administrivia

- create issues on GitHub from now on to ask your homework questions
  - in `hwXX` repo for general questions about homework (not specific to your solution)
    - everyone else may benefit from your question and answer
  - in your own repo `hwXX-githubuser` for questions about your own solution
- homework 3 will be out tomorrow
- Exam #1 next week
  - cheatsheet

Running bash scripts

- set file permission (`+x`)
- running a script
  - `scrit-name` if script directory included in `PATH`
  - `./script-name` if in the current directory and not in `PATH`
  - `bash script-name`
  - `source script-name`
    - alternative: `.  script-name`
    - runs script line by line
    - script doesn't need execute permission

debugging

- `bash -x script-name`
  - print every command after expansion and before execution
- selective debugging

```
set -x      # activate debugging from here
command1
...
set +x      # stop debugging from here
```

Script format

- start with the shell on the first line
  - `#!/bin/bash`
  - note: starts a child process, inherits env. vars, not aliases/functions
- comments
  - `# comment`

Script writing: best practices

- use long option names
  - `ls --all` instead of `ls -a`
- break long commands into multiple lines using line-continuation (\ followed by linefeed)

Functions

- syntax 1:

```
function name {
    commands
}
```

- syntax 2:

```
name () {
    commands
}
```

Variables

- all vars are internally stored as strings!
  - `number=12`
  - `name=john`
  - `name='john doe'`
- no spaces on either side of assignment sign =
- always a good practice to use double quotes when intending to retrieve values of variables
  - `user1="$name"`
- local variables: visible only within block of code in which it appears
  - `local name=jane`
- export a variable: make it accessible to sub-processes
  - `export name`

Flow control: if

- syntax:

```
if commands; then
    commands
[elif commands; then
    commands...]
[else
    commands]
fi
```

Exit status

- each command will return an exit status, a value between 0 and 255
  - 0 means success
- `$?` provides exit status of last command executed
- related shell builtin commands:
  - `true`: returns 0
  - `false`: returns 1
  - `exit [n]`: causes shell to exit, optionally setting exit status to `n`
  - `return [n]`: return from function, optionally setting exit status to `n`

Testing conditions

- syntax 1:

  ```
  test expression
  ```

- syntax 2:

  ```
  [ expression ]
  ```

- rich expression syntax to test files, strings, or integers
- exit status
  - 0: if expression is true
  - 1: if expression is false

Testing conditions (cont.)

- more modern version can test for regular expressions and more:

```
[[ expression ]]
```

- regular expression example:

```
if [[ "$INT" =~ ^-?[0-9]+$ ]]; then
```

- path expansion example:

```
if [[ $FILE == foo.* ]]; then
```

Arithmetic test

- syntax:

  ```
  (( expression ))
  ```

- allows for simpler format of integer expressions

  ```
  if (( ((INT % 2)) == 0)); then
  ```

- exit status
  - true if result of arithmetic evaluation is non-zero

Logical operators

- AND
  - `&&` in `[[ ]]` or `(( ))`
  - `-a` in `test`
- OR
  - `||` in `[[ ]]` or `(( ))`
  - `-o` in `test`
- NOT
  - `!` in both cases
- Examples

```
if [ "$RESULT" -a "$INT" -le "$MAX_VAL" ]; then
```

```
if [[ ! ("$RESULT" && "$INT" -le "$MAX_VAL") ]]; th
```

Control operators

- `command1 && command2`
  - `command1` executed first;
  - `command2` executed iff `command1` is successful
- `command1 || command2`
  - `command1` executed first;
  - `command2` executed iff `command1` is unsuccessful

Branching with case

- syntax:

```
case word in
pattern [| pattern]...)
    commands ;;
...
esac
```

- patterns are similar to those used by pathname expansion
- using `;;&` instead of `;;` after commands allows matching multiple cases

Loops: `while`

- syntax:

```
while CONTROL-COMMAND; do
    CONSEQUENT-COMMANDS;
done
```

- manual control of flow inside loops
  - `break`: terminate a loop
  - `continue`: skip remainder of loop (and resume next iteration)

Loops: until

- syntax:

```
until TEST-COMMAND; do
    CONSEQUENT-COMMANDS;
done
```

Loops: `for`

- syntax:

```
for variable [in words]; do
    commands
done
```

- example:

```
for i in {A..D}; do
    echo $i
done
```

- C-like syntax:

```
for (( expression1; expression2; expression3 )); do
    commands
done
```

Positional parameters (command line arguments)

- `$0`: basename of executed program
- `$1` .. `$9`: its arguments
- `$#`: number of arguments
- command `shift`
  - shifts arguments down by one (`$2` value moves to `$1`, `$3` to `$2`, ...)
  - you can loop through them by using `shift` in every iteration
- functions will have their own arguments when called
- all arguments can be referred to at once via `$*`, `"$*"`, `$@`, or `"$@"`