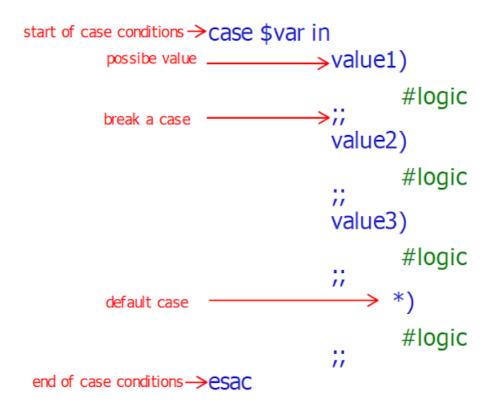# 2. Shell Scripting – case conditions

Drawbacks of if-block:

- Complexity of script / program increases as the number of conditions or nested structure is added.
- Time of execution and file size increases as the number of conditions increases.
- The if-block is executed on the basis of priority which may sometimes result in neglecting the most appropriate condition.

A solution to the above problems can be the case conditions / case statements. In case statements different conditions will be given as different cases. All cases hold a possible value of the variable on which case conditions are made. The most appropriate condition will be chosen based on the current value of the variable.

Case conditions:

```
start of case conditions → case $var in
      possibe value ─────────→ value1)
                                          #logic
      break a case ─────────→ ;;
                               value2)
                                          #logic
                               ;;
                               value3)
                                          #logic
                               ;;
      default case ───────────→ *)
                                          #logic
                               ;;
end of case conditions → esac
```

- If the value of the variable matches with any of the values, the instructions under that particular case till breakpoint (;;) will be executed.
- If the value of variable doesn't match with any of the case then default case(*) will be executed. Case conditions are meant for one time execution.