

# Basic commands

Karen Cristine Goncalves

2023-01-26



# Basics

- ▶ Commands are separated by a new line (Enter, Return) or a semicolon (;)

```
ls --help  
man ls
```

# Basics

- ▶ Commands are separated by a new line (Enter, Return) or a semicolon (;)
- ▶ The first word in a command is what you are asking the computer to do (a function)

```
ls --help
```

```
man ls
```

# Basics

- ▶ Commands are separated by a new line (Enter, Return) or a semicolon (;)
- ▶ The first word in a command is what you are asking the computer to do (a function)
- ▶ Spaces are used to separate file names, commands, etc.

```
ls --help
```

```
man ls
```

# Basics

- ▶ Commands are separated by a new line (Enter, Return) or a semicolon (;)
- ▶ The first word in a command is what you are asking the computer to do (a function)
- ▶ Spaces are used to separate file names, commands, etc.
- ▶ Some commands allow you to customize their output with options

```
ls --help
```

```
man ls
```

# Basics

- ▶ Commands are separated by a new line (Enter, Return) or a semicolon (;)
- ▶ The first word in a command is what you are asking the computer to do (a function)
- ▶ Spaces are used to separate file names, commands, etc.
- ▶ Some commands allow you to customize their output with options
  - ▶ These are single letters, a word, or several words preceded by - or --

```
ls --help
```

```
man ls
```

## Basics

- ▶ Commands are separated by a new line (Enter, Return) or a semicolon (;)
- ▶ The first word in a command is what you are asking the computer to do (a function)
- ▶ Spaces are used to separate file names, commands, etc.
- ▶ Some commands allow you to customize their output with options
  - ▶ These are single letters, a word, or several words preceded by - or --
- ▶ You can get help for a command by using the help option (either -h , --help ) or the command `man` (for manual)

```
ls --help
```

```
man ls
```



## About spaces and file names

- ▶ Put name in quotes if it has spaces (test code below)

```
touch Programming Class.txt  
ls
```

```
touch "Programming Class.txt"  
ls
```

```
echo "This is good"  
echo 'This is good'
```

## About spaces and file names

- ▶ Put name in quotes if it has spaces (test code below)

```
touch Programming Class.txt  
ls
```

```
touch "Programming Class.txt"  
ls
```

- ▶ Quotes are NORMALLY (not always) interchangeable (test code below)

```
echo "This is good"  
echo 'This is good'
```

## About spaces and file names

- ▶ Put name in quotes if it has spaces (test code below)

```
touch Programming Class.txt  
ls
```

```
touch "Programming Class.txt"  
ls
```

- ▶ Quotes are NORMALLY (not always) interchangeable (test code below)

```
echo "This is good"  
echo 'This is good'
```

# Shortcuts

- ▶ ~ or \$HOME : your home folder (can be defined by the user)

# Shortcuts

- ▶ ~ or \$HOME : your home folder (can be defined by the user)
- ▶ . : the folder that you are currently in

# Shortcuts

- ▶ ~ or \$HOME : your home folder (can be defined by the user)
- ▶ . : the folder that you are currently in
- ▶ .. : the folder that contains the one you are currently in

# Shortcuts

- ▶ `~` or `$HOME` : your home folder (can be defined by the user)
- ▶ `.` : the folder that you are currently in
- ▶ `..` : the folder that contains the one you are currently in
- ▶ `Ctrl+C`: cancel a command

# Shortcuts

- ▶ `~` or `$HOME` : your home folder (can be defined by the user)
- ▶ `.` : the folder that you are currently in
- ▶ `..` : the folder that contains the one you are currently in
- ▶ `Ctrl+C`: cancel a command
- ▶ In MobaXTerm, find and modify useful shortcuts by clicking on Settings -> Keyboard shortcuts



# Shortcuts

▶ `whoami`

# Shortcuts

- ▶ `whoami`
  - ▶ prints your username (if saved in the computer)

# Shortcuts

- ▶ `whoami`
  - ▶ prints your username (if saved in the computer)
- ▶ Use `tab` to complete words

# Shortcuts

- ▶ `whoami`
  - ▶ prints your username (if saved in the computer)
- ▶ Use `tab` to complete words
- ▶ In a current command or in a text file, move the cursor faster by using `Ctrl+Arrow` (right or left arrow in a command line, in a text file up and down arrow too) (this works everywhere!!!)

# Basic commands

► `cd`

# Basic commands

- ▶ `cd`
  - ▶ acronym for “change directory” (directory = folder)

# Basic commands

- ▶ `cd`
  - ▶ acronym for “change directory” (directory = folder)
  - ▶ If used alone, opens your home folder

# Basic commands

- ▶ `cd`
  - ▶ acronym for “change directory” (directory = folder)
  - ▶ If used alone, opens your home folder
  - ▶ The name of the folder to which you want to go comes after `cd`



# Basic commands

- ▶ `cd`
  - ▶ acronym for “change directory” (directory = folder)
  - ▶ If used alone, opens your home folder
  - ▶ The name of the folder to which you want to go comes after `cd`
    - ▶ `cd` , `cd ~` and `cd $HOME` are synonyms

# Basic commands

- ▶ `cd`
  - ▶ acronym for “change directory” (directory = folder)
  - ▶ If used alone, opens your home folder
  - ▶ The name of the folder to which you want to go comes after `cd`
    - ▶ `cd` , `cd ~` and `cd $HOME` are synonyms
  - ▶ `cd -` - takes you to the previous folder

# Basic commands

► `pwd`

# Basic commands

- ▶ `pwd`
  - ▶ acronym for “print working directory” (directory = folder)

# Basic commands

- ▶ `pwd`
  - ▶ acronym for “print working directory” (directory = folder)
  - ▶ equivalent to the R function `getwd()` or python's `os.getcwd()`

# Basic commands

- ▶ `pwd`
  - ▶ acronym for “print working directory” (directory = folder)
  - ▶ equivalent to the R function `getwd()` or python's `os.getcwd()`
  - ▶ prints the full path to your current folder

# Basic commands

- ▶ `pwd`
  - ▶ acronym for “print working directory” (directory = folder)
  - ▶ equivalent to the R function `getwd()` or python's `os.getcwd()`
  - ▶ prints the full path to your current folder
  - ▶ A full path always starts from the root (/)

## Basic commands

► `ls`

```
pwd > myFolder  
cat myFolder
```

```
ls >> myFolder  
cat myFolder
```



## Basic commands

- ▶ `ls`
  - ▶ lists the contents of your current folder

```
pwd > myFolder  
cat myFolder
```

```
ls >> myFolder  
cat myFolder
```

## Basic commands

- ▶ `ls`
  - ▶ lists the contents of your current folder
  - ▶ Check slide 2 where we used this command

```
pwd > myFolder  
cat myFolder
```

```
ls >> myFolder  
cat myFolder
```

## Basic commands

- ▶ `ls`
  - ▶ lists the contents of your current folder
  - ▶ Check slide 2 where we used this command
- ▶ Use `>` after a command to save the output

```
pwd > myFolder  
cat myFolder
```

```
ls >> myFolder  
cat myFolder
```

## Basic commands

- ▶ `ls`
  - ▶ lists the contents of your current folder
  - ▶ Check slide 2 where we used this command
- ▶ Use `>` after a command to save the output

```
pwd > myFolder  
cat myFolder
```

- ▶ Use `>>` to add the current output to a previous file

```
ls >> myFolder  
cat myFolder
```

# Managing text files

- ▶ `cat` : prints the contents of the file to the screen (check slide 5)

# Managing text files

- ▶ `cat` : prints the contents of the file to the screen (check slide 5)
  - ▶ Do not use it with files that are not text (images, pdfs, compressed files) or is too big

# Managing text files

- ▶ `cat` : prints the contents of the file to the screen (check slide 5)
  - ▶ Do not use it with files are that not text (images, pdfs, compressed files) or is too big
  - ▶ If several files names are put after the command, one file is printed followed by the next (conCATenation)

# Managing text files

- ▶ `cat` : prints the contents of the file to the screen (check slide 5)
  - ▶ Do not use it with files that are not text (images, pdfs, compressed files) or is too big
  - ▶ If several file names are put after the command, one file is printed followed by the next (conCATenation)
- ▶ `head` and `tail`: prints to the screen the first/last 10 lines of the file



# Managing text files

- ▶ `less` : opens the file as “read-only”

# Managing text files

- ▶ `less` : opens the file as “read-only”
  - ▶ Search for a word in a file inside `less` by typing “/” followed by the word

# Managing text files

- ▶ `less` : opens the file as “read-only”
  - ▶ Search for a word in a file inside `less` by typing “/” followed by the word
  - ▶ To close `less`, press Q

# Managing text files

- ▶ `less` : opens the file as “read-only”
  - ▶ Search for a word in a file inside `less` by typing “/” followed by the word
  - ▶ To close `less`, press Q
- ▶ `more` : opens the file as “read-only”, when the file is closed, prints it to the screen

# Managing text files

- ▶ nano : open a text file to edit it.

# Managing text files

- ▶ nano : open a text file to edit it.
- ▶ grep : searches for a word/phrase in the file and prints the lines that match

# Managing text files

- ▶ nano : open a text file to edit it.
- ▶ grep : searches for a word/phrase in the file and prints the lines that match
  - ▶ Can search for several phrases (one per line) in a file by using the option -f

# Managing text files

- ▶ nano : open a text file to edit it.
- ▶ grep : searches for a word/phrase in the file and prints the lines that match
  - ▶ Can search for several phrases (one per line) in a file by using the option `-f`
  - ▶ If you don't care about the upper/lower case, use the option `-i` or `--ignore-case`



# Managing text files

```
# Search for lines that have the word programming in the file  
myFolder created in slide7  
grep "Programming" myFolder
```

- ▶ `wc` : word count. Counts the number of characters, words and lines in a file

# Managing text files

# Search for lines that have the word programming in the file  
myFolder created in slide7

```
grep "Programming" myFolder
```

- ▶ `wc` : word count. Counts the number of characters, words and lines in a file
- ▶ `echo` : repeats the text that follows it (check slide 2)

## Exercise

- ▶ Save a fasta file into your home folder with the name myFasta.fa

## Exercise

- ▶ Save a fasta file into your home folder with the name myFasta.fa
- ▶ Use `grep` to find all the lines with sequence IDs.

## Exercise

- ▶ Save a fasta file into your home folder with the name myFasta.fa
- ▶ Use `grep` to find all the lines with sequence IDs.
  - ▶ Note - put the word or phrase you will search for inside ""

## Exercise - Solution

- ▶ Save a fasta file into your home folder with the name myFasta.fa

# In all fasta files, the sequence ID line is indicated by the symbol  
>, so we just need to look for it

```
grep ">" myFasta.fa
```

## Exercise - Solution

- ▶ Save a fasta file into your home folder with the name myFasta.fa
- ▶ Use `grep` to find all the lines with sequence IDs.

# In all fasta files, the sequence ID line is indicated by the symbol `>`, so we just need to look for it

```
grep ">" myFasta.fa
```

## Exercise - Solution

- ▶ Save a fasta file into your home folder with the name myFasta.fa
- ▶ Use grep to find all the lines with sequence IDs.
  - ▶ Note - put the word or phrase you will search for inside ""

# In all fasta files, the sequence ID line is indicated by the symbol  
>, so we just need to look for it

```
grep ">" myFasta.fa
```



## Exercise - Solution

- ▶ Save a fasta file into your home folder with the name myFasta.fa
- ▶ Use grep to find all the lines with sequence IDs.
  - ▶ Note - put the word or phrase you will search for inside ""

# In all fasta files, the sequence ID line is indicated by the symbol  
>, so we just need to look for it

```
grep ">" myFasta.fa
```

- ▶ Normally, if you just search for one word, the quotes are not needed, but in this case, the symbol ">" could also mean "send the output to", which would replace the myFasta.fa file

# Managing files

- ▶ `cp` : acronym for copy

# Managing files

- ▶ `cp` : acronym for copy
  - ▶ `cp file file2` : creates a copy of the file “file” and saves it in the file “file2”

# Managing files

- ▶ `cp` : acronym for copy
  - ▶ `cp file file2` : creates a copy of the file “file” and saves it in the file “file2”
  - ▶ `cp file folder` : creates a copy of the file “file” and saves it with the same name in the folder “folder”

# Managing files

- ▶ `cp` : acronym for copy
  - ▶ `cp file file2` : creates a copy of the file “file” and saves it in the file “file2”
  - ▶ `cp file folder` : creates a copy of the file “file” and saves it with the same name in the folder “folder”
  - ▶ `cp file file2 folder`: both files “file” and “file2” are copied into the folder “folder” with the same names

# Managing files

- ▶ `cp` : acronym for copy
  - ▶ `cp file file2` : creates a copy of the file “file” and saves it in the file “file2”
  - ▶ `cp file folder` : creates a copy of the file “file” and saves it with the same name in the folder “folder”
  - ▶ `cp file file2 folder`: both files “file” and “file2” are copied into the folder “folder” with the same names
  - ▶ `cp folder folder2 -r` : the option `-r` allows the copy of the entire folder.

# Managing files

- ▶ `cp` : acronym for copy
  - ▶ `cp file file2` : creates a copy of the file “file” and saves it in the file “file2”
  - ▶ `cp file folder` : creates a copy of the file “file” and saves it with the same name in the folder “folder”
  - ▶ `cp file file2 folder`: both files “file” and “file2” are copied into the folder “folder” with the same names
  - ▶ `cp folder folder2 -r` : the option `-r` allows the copy of the entire folder.
    - ▶ If folder2 doesn't exist, it will be created to hold the same files as “folder”

# Managing files

- ▶ `cp` : acronym for copy
  - ▶ `cp file file2` : creates a copy of the file “file” and saves it in the file “file2”
  - ▶ `cp file folder` : creates a copy of the file “file” and saves it with the same name in the folder “folder”
  - ▶ `cp file file2 folder`: both files “file” and “file2” are copied into the folder “folder” with the same names
  - ▶ `cp folder folder2 -r` : the option `-r` allows the copy of the entire folder.
    - ▶ If folder2 doesn't exist, it will be created to hold the same files as “folder”
    - ▶ If folder2 exists, a copy of “folder” will be created inside of folder2



# Managing files

- ▶ `mv` : acronym for move. Move file from one place to another

# Managing files

- ▶ `mv` : acronym for move. Move file from one place to another
  - ▶ `mv file file2` : renames “file” as “file2”

# Managing files

- ▶ `mv` : acronym for move. Move file from one place to another
  - ▶ `mv file file2` : renames “file” as “file2”
  - ▶ `mv file folder` : moves “file” into the folder “folder”

# Managing files

- ▶ `mv` : acronym for move. Move file from one place to another
  - ▶ `mv file file2` : renames “file” as “file2”
  - ▶ `mv file folder` : moves “file” into the folder “folder”
  - ▶ `mv file file2 folder` : both files “file” and “file2” are moved into the folder “folder” with the same names

# Managing files

- ▶ `mv` : acronym for move. Move file from one place to another
  - ▶ `mv file file2` : renames “file” as “file2”
  - ▶ `mv file folder` : moves “file” into the folder “folder”
  - ▶ `mv file file2 folder` : both files “file” and “file2” are moved into the folder “folder” with the same names
  - ▶ `mv folder folder2` :

# Managing files

- ▶ `mv` : acronym for move. Move file from one place to another
  - ▶ `mv file file2` : renames “file” as “file2”
  - ▶ `mv file folder` : moves “file” into the folder “folder”
  - ▶ `mv file file2 folder` : both files “file” and “file2” are moved into the folder “folder” with the same names
  - ▶ `mv folder folder2` :
    - ▶ If folder2 doesn't exist, it is the same as renaming “folder” as “folder2”

# Managing files

- ▶ `mv` : acronym for move. Move file from one place to another
  - ▶ `mv file file2` : renames “file” as “file2”
  - ▶ `mv file folder` : moves “file” into the folder “folder”
  - ▶ `mv file file2 folder` : both files “file” and “file2” are moved into the folder “folder” with the same names
  - ▶ `mv folder folder2` :
    - ▶ If folder2 doesn't exist, it is the same as renaming “folder” as “folder2”
    - ▶ If folder2 exists, “folder” is moved to that folder

# Managing files

- ▶ `rm` : acronym for remove. Deletes files. **They are PERMANENTLY deleted, there is no trash bin here!!!!!!**



# Managing files

- ▶ `rm` : acronym for remove. Deletes files. **They are PERMANENTLY deleted, there is no trash bin here!!!!!!**
  - ▶ `rm file file2` : deletes both files

# Managing files

- ▶ `rm` : acronym for remove. Deletes files. **They are PERMANENTLY deleted, there is no trash bin here!!!!!!**
  - ▶ `rm file file2` : deletes both files
  - ▶ `rm file file2 -i` : asks the user if they really want to delete each file, if y is pressed, the file is deleted (`-i` for interactive)

# Managing folders

- ▶ `mkdir` : acronym for “make directory”. Creates new folders with the specified names.

# Managing folders

- ▶ `mkdir` : acronym for “make directory”. Creates new folders with the specified names.
  - ▶ Gives an error if something with the same name already exists in the current folder.

# Managing folders

- ▶ `mkdir` : acronym for “make directory”. Creates new folders with the specified names.
  - ▶ Gives an error if something with the same name already exists in the current folder.
  - ▶ If many names are given (separated by spaces, creates all names folders)

# Managing folders

- ▶ `mkdir` : acronym for “make directory”. Creates new folders with the specified names.
  - ▶ Gives an error if something with the same name already exists in the current folder.
  - ▶ If many names are given (separated by spaces, creates all names folders)
- ▶ `rmdir` : acronym for “remove directory”. Deletes ***empty*** folders.

# Managing folders

- ▶ `mkdir` : acronym for “make directory”. Creates new folders with the specified names.
  - ▶ Gives an error if something with the same name already exists in the current folder.
  - ▶ If many names are given (separated by spaces, creates all names folders)
- ▶ `rmdir` : acronym for “remove directory”. Deletes ***empty*** folders.
  - ▶ If the folder is not empty, gives an error.

# Managing folders

- ▶ `mkdir` : acronym for “make directory”. Creates new folders with the specified names.
  - ▶ Gives an error if something with the same name already exists in the current folder.
  - ▶ If many names are given (separated by spaces, creates all names folders)
- ▶ `rmdir` : acronym for “remove directory”. Deletes ***empty*** folders.
  - ▶ If the folder is not empty, gives an error.
  - ▶ If many names are given (separated by spaces, deletes all names folders **if they are empty**)



# Managing folders

- ▶ `mkdir` : acronym for “make directory”. Creates new folders with the specified names.
  - ▶ Gives an error if something with the same name already exists in the current folder.
  - ▶ If many names are given (separated by spaces, creates all names folders)
- ▶ `rmdir` : acronym for “remove directory”. Deletes ***empty*** folders.
  - ▶ If the folder is not empty, gives an error.
  - ▶ If many names are given (separated by spaces, deletes all names folders **if they are empty**)
- ▶ `rm -r folder` : as in `cp`, the option `-r` allows the `rm` to work with a folder. It deletes everything in the folder, then deletes the folder itself

## Resources for help

Glossary of commands

Book on basic unix commands