

UNIX CHEAT SHEET

Command	Translation	Examples
cd	change d irectory	cd /absolute/path/of/the/directory/ Go to the home directory by typing simply cd or cd ~ Go up (back) a directory by typing cd ..
pwd	p rint w orking d irectory	pwd
mkdir	m ake d irectory	mkdir newDirectory creates newDirectory in your current directory Make a directory one level up with mkdir ../newDirectory
cp	c opy	cp file.txt newfile.txt (and file.txt will still exist!)
mv	m ove	mv file.txt newfile.txt (but file.txt will <i>no longer</i> exist!)
rm	r emove	rm file.txt removes file.txt rm -r directoryname/ removes the directory and all files within
ls	l ist	ls *.txt lists all .txt files in current directory ls -a lists all files including hidden ones in the current directory ls -l lists all files in current directory including file sizes and timestamps ls -lh does the same but changes file size format to be human-readable ls ../ lists files in the directory above the current one
man	m anual	man ls opens the manual for command ls (use q to escape page)
grep	g lobal r egular e xpression p arser	grep ">" seqs.fasta pulls out all sequence names in a fasta file grep -c ">" seqs.fasta counts the number of those sequences
cat	c oncatenate	cat seqs.fasta prints the contents of seqs.fasta to the screen (ie stdout)
head	h ead	head seqs.fasta prints the first 10 lines of the file head -n 3 seqs.fasta prints first 3 lines
tail	t ail	tail seqs.fasta prints the last 10 lines of the file tail -n 3 seqs.fasta prints last 3 lines
wc	w ord c ount	wc filename.txt shows the number of new lines, number of words, and number of characters wc -l filename.txt shows only the number of new lines wc -c filename.txt shows only the number of characters
sort	s ort	sort filename.txt sorts file and prints output
uniq	u nique	shows only unique elements of a list

Shortcuts	Use
Ctrl + C	kills current process
Ctrl + L (or clear)	clears screen
Ctrl + A	Go to the beginning of the line
Ctrl + E	Go to the end of the line
Ctrl + U	Clears the line before the cursor position
Ctrl + K	Clear the line after the cursor
*	wildcard character
tab	completes word
Up Arrow	call last command
.	current directory
..	one level up
~	home
>	redirects stdout to a file, <i>overwriting</i> file if it already exists
>>	redirects stdout to a file, <i>appending</i> to the end of file if it already exists
	redirects stdout to become stdin for next command