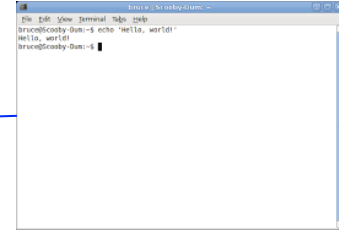# Quick Intro to Unix

Filip Buric
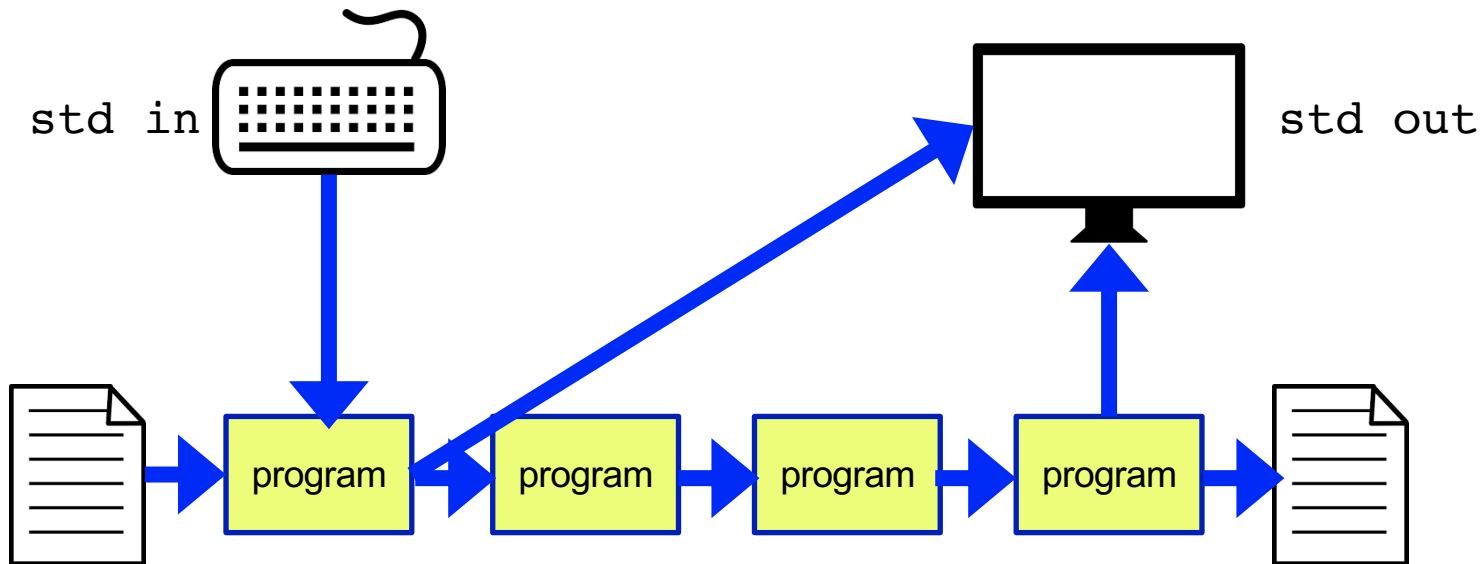
January 2020

Mainframes (1950s – 1970s)

- Much like clusters today (high performance and capacity)
- Users connected from *terminal* computers (glorified keyboard + screen/paper output)
- Behaviour and terminology originates from back then

Unix systems 1970s - present

- Many versions across the years: Bell Labs, Berkeley, IBM, hobbyists

- "Unix" is actually a trademark but became commonplace

- Sometimes people use *nix*

- Official documentation uses the term **POSIX** = the behavioural standard that anything calling itself a Unix system has to conform to

- Examples: macOS, Linux, Android, iOS

- the vast majority of commands work the same way, but some versions have additional functionality (e.g. BSD grep vs GNU grep)

Philosophy

A collection of **specialized** programs (or "commands") that are inter-**connectable** through **text**

Some terms

- command line = terminal = shell ≈ bash
- prompt = text after which you may enter commands (usually ends with $)
- ssh = secure shell : creates an encrypted connection to another computer
- command = program
- directory = folder
- (compressed) archive = (compressed) files joined into single file (e.g. zip, tar.gz, tar.bz2)
- pipe = data redirector that takes output from one command and inputs it to another command

Course material: https://mpbio-bbt015.github.io/

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