

Department of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering

VLSI I: From Architectures to VLSI Circuits and FPGAs

227-0116-00L

Exercise 0

Introduction to the Linux Shell

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1 Introduction and Notation

In this exercise, you will learn the basics of working effectively with the Linux shell. The content of this exercise is not specific to digital design but highly helpful in working with Linux machines in general.

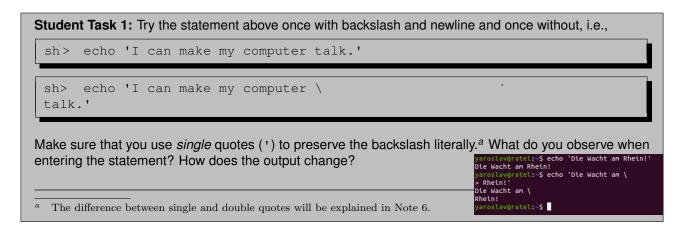
Throughout this exercise, you will be mostly entering statements into the shell. To open a shell (also called "terminal", "console", or "command prompt") on a GNOME desktop, open the launcher menu by pressing the win key or move the mouse to the upper left corner of the screen, search for the "Terminal" application and start it. There might be multiple "Terminal" applications installed; they only differ in the user interface, but not in the underlying shell.

Shell commands in the exercise sheets are distinctly formatted in a box, where every statement starts with sh> (do not type that). For example:

```
sh> echo 'I can make my computer talk.'
```

In explanations we use the same style in-line with text. In this trivial example, echo is the command that prints all its arguments, and its single argument (multiple words surrounded by quotes) is the string 'I can make\ my computer talk.'.¹ Paper is finite, so sometimes we have to break a line in a statement where you should *not* begin a new line. In this case, we end the line with the \ backslash, which is slightly different from the regular code backslash \. You should enter the statement without that backslash or line break.

Student Task: Parts of the exercise where you are required to take action will be explained in a shaded box, just like this paragraph.



You will also be working with files and directories denoted by their *paths* (more on this shortly). We write paths like this: some_directory/some_file.txt, and the same rules for breaking overly long lines apply.

2 Preparation

In the exercises, you will always start in a preconfigured working directory.

```
Student Task 2: Setup the working directory for this exercise by calling our install script:

sh> /home/vlsi1/ex0/install.sh

This will create the directory ex0 under your current working directory and populate it. Switch into the newly created directory by entering

sh> cd ex0

yaroslav@ratel:~$ cd vlsi1
yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1$ cd ex0
yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1$ cd ex0
yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1$ cd ex0
yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1/ex0$
```

echo can also be invoked with multiple arguments. If you pass multiple arguments, echo prints all arguments with one space between them. Therefore, echo Hello there! will print the same as echo 'Hello there!' but different from echo 'Hello there!'.

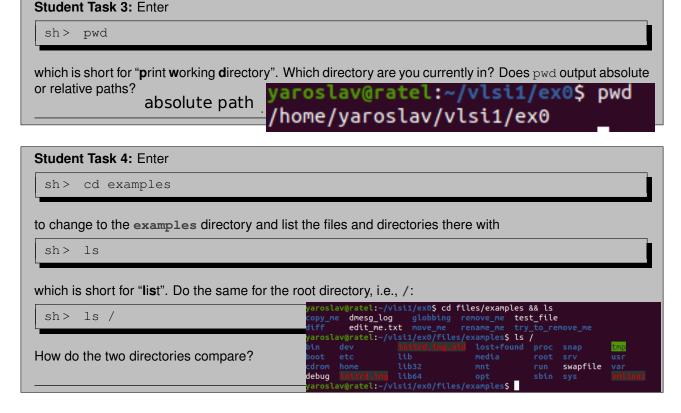
3 Command Line Basics

Within this working directory, we will now look at the basics of creating, manipulating, and deleting directories and files. If you mess up your directory, you can always re-run the install script above to get a fresh one.

You are probably used to navigate and modify directories in a graphical program like Windows Explorer or MacOS Finder. With a few simple commands described in this section, you can do the same tasks on the shell. In Section 5, you will then compose these commands to perform tasks that you cannot do in graphical programs.

3.1 Working with directories

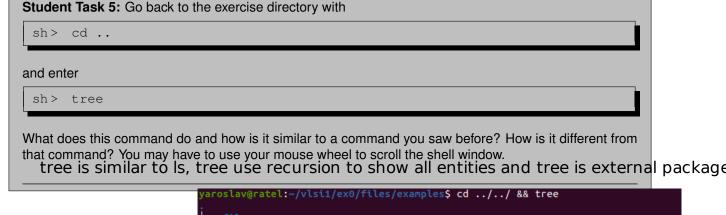
As you might have guessed from the previous tasks, you will always be in a "current working directory". When starting a new terminal, you will start out in your home directory, from where you can navigate to another directory. The absolute path of your home directory is /home/\$USER, where \$USER is your user name. The abbreviation for your home directory is ~ (tilde); you can thus address files and directories under your home directory with ~/dir/file. Paths under your current working directory can also be abbreviated as relative paths without a leading / (slash), e.g., dir/file is equivalent to /home/\$USER/dir/file when you start a new shell.



A typical directory tree for a Linux system could look like in Figure 1. Note that the ETH lab machines might have a slightly different layout, as your home directory will not be stored on the machine itself, but on the network!



Figure 1: Typical Linux directory tree



Command	Description	— files — calibre
pwd tree \$dir ls \$dir cd \$dir	Display the curr Get a visualizati List all files and Change the curr	boac.drc runset.drc

Table 1: Basic commands for navigating around directories. \$dir is a path you provide.

Student Task 6 (Creating directories): Make sure that you are in the ~/ex0 directory. Think of a creative directory name and create a directory with that name with

```
sh > mkdir $dir
```

where \$dir is the name you thought of and mkdir is short for "make directory". Could you successfully create a directory? Try to create a directory that has spaces in its name; what happens? What changes if you do or do not surround the name containing spaces with quotes (' or ")? What happens if you try to create a directory that already exists?

the shell interpret a string with spaces as one sing

yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1/ex0\$ mkdir Gotterdammerung
mkdir: cannot create directory 'Gotterdammerung': Permission denied
yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1/ex0\$ sudo su
[sudo] password for yaroslav: root@ratel:/home/yaroslav/vlsi1/ex0# mkdir Gotterdammerung root@ratel:/home/yaroslav/vlsi1/ex0# mkdir Wander Vogel root@ratel:/home/yaroslav/vlsi1/ex0# ls ave sh task.pdf Vogel Wander root@ratel:/home/yaroslav/vlsi1/ex0# mkdir 'Das Rheingold' root@ratel:/home/yaroslav/vlsi1/ex0# ls mmerung task.pdf root@ratel:/home/yaroslav/vlsi1/ex0# mkdir "Das Rheingold" mkdir: cannot create directory 'Das Rheingold': File exists root@ratel:/home/yaroslav/vlsi1/ex0#

```
Student Task 7 (Removing directories): Change to the examples subdirectory and remove both the
   remove_me and the try_to_remove_me directories with
    sh > rmdir remove_me try_to_remove_me
  where rmdir is short for "remove directory". Does that work? If no, why not?
        yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1/ex0$ cd files/examples
        yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1/ex0/files/examples$ rmdir remove me try to remove me
       rmdir: failed to remove 'remove me': Permission denied
       rmdir: failed to remove 'try_to_remove_me': Permission denied
use the yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1/ex0/files/examples$ sudo rmdir remove_me try_to_remove_me
shell; trmdir: failed to remove 'try_to_remove_me': Directory not empty
   Student Task 8 (Removing non-empty directories): What do you have to enter to remove the non-
  empty directory try to remove me? Verify your answer by trying it. What happens if you use the right
  command without an option?
                                    yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsl1/ex0/rtles/examples;
rm: descend into directory 'try_to_remove_me'? y
rm: remove regular empty file 'try_to_remove_me/rmdir_grinch'? y
rm: remove directory 'try_to_remove_me'? y
yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsl1/ex0/files/examples$ ls
                                                                    examples$ sudo rm -ri try_to_remove_me
The cp ("copy") command is used varoslav@ratel:~/visi1/ex0/files/examples$
                                                                               ring move_me rename_me test file
then the destination. Similarly to rr
to copy directories.
```

```
Student Task 9 (Copying directories): Which statement creates a copy of the directory copy_me called new_dir? Verify your answer by trying it any arostavaratel:~/visti/exo/files/examples$ sudo cp -r copy_me new_dir copied. What happens when you execute the yarostavaratel:~/visti/exo/files/examples$ sudo cp -r copy_me new_dir yarostavaratel:~/visti/exo/files/examples$ sudo cp -r copy_me new_dir yarostavaratel:~/visti/exo/files/examples$ sudo cp -r copy_me new_dir yarostavaratel:~/visti/exo/files/examples$ ls copy_me dmesg_log globbing new_dir test_file diff edit_me.txt move_me rename_me
```

The mv ("**mov**e") command is used to move or rename files and directories. While it takes a source and a destination argument like cp, there is no -r option for mv.

```
Student Task 10 (Moving and renaming directories): Move the directory move_me into new_dir,

check the result with ls new_dir, and note the statement you used.

In a second step, rename the directory rename_me to new_dir. Which statement would you use? What is the problem with that statement?

Toot@ratel:/home/yaroslav/vlsit/exb/files/examples# ls new_dir sopp_is move_me some_content

Toot@ratel:/home/yaroslav/vlsit/exb/files/examples# ls new_dir sopp_is move_me some_content

Toot@ratel:/home/yaroslav/vlsit/exb/files/examples# ls new_dir

Toot@ratel:/home/yaroslav/vlsit/exb/files/examples# wv -T rename_me new_dir

Toot@ratel:/home/yaroslav/vlsit/exb/files/examples# ls new_dir

Toot@ratel:/home/yaroslav/vlsit/exb/files/examples# wv -T rename_me new_dir

Toot@ratel:/home/yaroslav/vlsit/exb/files/examples# nv ove_ne new_dir

Toot@ratel:/home/yaroslav/vlsit/exb/file
```

Note 1: The default behavior of m_V is closer to "move" than to "rename". Thus, in the particular case when you want to rename a directory to a name that already exists in the same parent directory, m_V moves the source directory into the target instead of renaming (and overwriting) it. You can force a rename with m_V -T, though.

Note 2: As a rule of thumb, both cp and my come with no or little safeguards (just like rm). Most importantly, if the target of a cp or a my already exists, it is silently overwritten in almost all cases!

Nonetheless, rm is *not* a secure way to delete files!

Command	Description
mkdir \$dir	Create a new directory with the given name.
rmdir \$dir	Remove a directory. Will not work with non-empty directories.
rm -r \$dir	Remove a directory and its contents. Warning: There is no trashcan on the command line! Files and directories will be deleted irrevocably.
cp -r \$source \$target	Copy a source directory (recursively with all its contents) to a target.
mv \$source \$target	Move a file or directory. Also used to rename files/directories.

Table 2: Basic commands for creating, modifying, and deleting directories. \$dir, \$source, and \$target are paths you provide.

rm, cp and mv can be used for both files and directories. This is because in Unix, directories are just some special kind of file.

3.2 Working with files

Command	Description
cat \$file	Output a file to the terminal.
head \$file	Output the first lines (i.e., default value is ten) to the terminal.
tail \$file	Output the last lines (i.e., default value is ten) to the terminal.
less \$file	Browse a file in a visual viewer.
touch \$file	Create a new file when it doesn't exist yet. If the file already exists, its access and modification times are updated without changing the file content.

Table 3: Basic commands for working with files. \$file is a path you provide.

Student Task 11: The basic commands for working with files are listed in Table 3. Read their descriptions, you will need these commands to solve the following tasks.

head and tail are very useful when you are only interested in the start or end of a file. tail is often used to inspect log files, when you are only interested in the latest entries.

```
Student Task 13: Find the last entries of examples/dmesg_log using tail.

yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1/ex0/files$ tail -n 10 sourcecode/debouncer.sv

if (-rst_ni) begin
    cnt_q <= '0;
    state_q <= LOW;
end else begin
You can use the same command line tools to
other programs that generate log files.

In Unix systems, file endings like .txt bear
plain text file, you can just create a file with any name.
```

Student Task 14: Create the new file <u>important_notes</u>. Figure out what command to use by looking at the command summary above and note the statement:

3.3 Getting help

Usually, commands and programs you can execute in your to consult these often when using Unix systems, because most programs you could of course look up, e.g. the capabilities of ls, with a man, which will open its manual right in your terminal!

```
NULL(4)

NAME

null, zero - data sink

DESCRIPTION

Data written to the /dev/null and /dev/zero special files is discarded.

Reads from /dev/null always return end of file (i.e., read(2) returns 0), whereas reads from /dev/zero always return bytes containing zero ('\0' characters).

These devices are typically created by:

mknod -m 666 /dev/zero c 1 5
mknod -m 666 /dev/zero c 1 5
chown root:root /dev/null /dev/zero
```

Student Task 15: Use the man command to view a program's manual. Of course, man can show you the manual of itself! man uses less to display a manual, so you can use the keys explained previously and quit with $\boxed{\mathbb{Q}}$.

Student Task 16: In Unix systems, hidden files start with a . (period), like .hidden_file. When using ls without arguments, they will not be shown. Consult the manual of ls to find out how you can make it display hidden files as well. Are there any such hidden files in the examples folder?

Hint: Use the less keys to search the manual page. The "ignore".

Student Task 17: Now consult the manual of tail to find out how you can display only last 3 lines instead of the default 10 as obtained in Task 13. Try this for examples /dmesq_log varoslav@ratel:-/vlsi1/ex0/files/examples\$ tail -n 3 dmesg_log

```
yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1/ex0/files/examples$ tail -n 3 dmesg_log
[ 71.520149] [drm] RC6 on
[ 71.766862] e1000e: enp0s31f6 NIC Link is Up 100 Mbps Full Duplex, Flow Control: Rx/Tx
[ 71.766865] e1000e 0000:00:1f.6 enp0s31f6: 10/100 speed: disabling TSO
```

Some programs do not have a manual. However, they will (most likely) have a help page built in. You can usually access it by passing the -h or --help argument. For example, to see the short help page of unzip instead of the long manual, use:

```
sh> unzip --help
```

3.4 Terminal tips and tricks

There are a few things you really should know when working with a Linux terminal that will make your life a lot easier.

3.4.1 Tab completion

You might have noticed that typing in long paths is rather annoying, if not completely frustrating. You can make the shell complete file paths for you by pressing Tabl.

Let us say you want to list the contents of examples. You start by typing:

```
sh> ls e
```

Pressing Tab will complete this to:

```
sh> ls examples/
```

If there is more than one option, nothing will happen. You can then press again to get a list of possible completion options. Assuming you want to list the contents of a subdirectory of ~/ex0, entering ls (with a space at the end) followed by Tab will give you something like this:

```
calibre/ docs/ examples/ sourcecode/
dfii/ encounter/ modelsim/ vivado/
```

Note 3 (Copying and pasting): You might have noticed the usual commands of Ctrl + C / Ctrl + V don't work in the terminal. This is because those keyboard commands already have another meaning (see Table 4).

To copy/paste from/to a terminal you can select any text with the left mouse button. The selection will automatically be placed in a special selection buffer. You can then paste it by pressing the middle mouse button (click the scroll wheel).

If that does not work or you prefer key combinations, most terminals support copying with $\boxed{\texttt{Ctrl}} + \boxed{\texttt{Shift} \, \uparrow} + \boxed{\texttt{V}}$.

3.4.2 The history

The shell will keep a history of all commands you type in. You can scroll through the commands you typed by pressing $\boxed{\uparrow}$. To get back again to more recent history, press $\boxed{\downarrow}$.

But what if you know you used some command before, but just can't remember it? You can try to find it with the arrow keys, or just search for it by pressing [Ctrl] + [R]. To abort, press [Ctrl] + [C] or [Esc].

If things get too cluttered, you can use the command clear to tidy up your terminal. This command clears the terminal screen, including its scroll-back buffers. If you want to clear the terminal screen but keep your scroll-back buffers, then you can use the $\lceil Ctr \rceil + \lceil L \rceil$ shortcut.

3.4.3 Keyboard commands

There are a few keyboard commands that can make you *a lot* faster when entering long commands. Instead of always using your arrow keys to edit commands, try some of these!

Keystroke	Description
Ctrl] + W	Delete the part of the word before the cursor.
Ctrl + U	Delete the part of the line before the cursor.
Ctrl + L	Clear the terminal.
Ctrl + A	Go to the beginning of the line.
Ctrl + E	Go to the end of the line.
Ctrl + C	Terminate the currently running process.
Ctrl + D	End of file, quits the shell if pressed on an empty line.

Table 4: Useful keystrokes in the shell.

These tips and tricks are reprinted in the Cheat Sheet in Section 8 at the end of this exercise for your convenience.

4 Text Editors

At some point you will have to learn how to use a text editor. You might have worked with IDE's before or used GUI editors, like *Notepad++*. There are some very useful and extermely powerful tools available to you on the command line (e.g., *Vim* and *nano*) and also as graphical programs (e.g., *Emacs* and *Sublime-text*). The usual advice given to people new to Linux is: Try out *Vim* and *Emacs*, and learn to use one well.

4.1 Opening Graphical Text Editors

Many graphical text editors provide an environment that is familiar. Little to no learning is required (of course, there also exist very feature-rich graphical editors, e.g. *Sublime-text*). To open a graphical text editor from the command line, it is sufficient to type the name of the executable. For example, typing <code>gedit</code> opens *gedit*, the default text editor in the GNOME desktop environment. To open a given <code>\$file</code> directly, enter:

```
sh > gedit $file
```

Note 4 (Jobs in foreground and background): Like pure shell programs (e.g., less), most GUI programs (e.g., gedit) "take over" the shell they were started in. This means that all input you type in the shell while the program is running go to that program instead of the underlying shell and that you only get output from that program. The program thus runs in *foreground*.

When starting a GUI application from the shell, this is most likely not what you want. In this case, you can start the program \$cmd in background by appending a &:

```
sh > $cmd &
```

Programs running in background are not able to receive inputs through the shell but they can still print to the shell. This output can get mixed with output of other programs (even the one in foreground). Keep this in mind when seemingly unrelated messages pop up.

You can also put a program that is currently running in foreground to background: Hit $\boxed{\text{Ctrl}} + \boxed{\text{Z}}$ to suspend the program (causing the program to pause and all I/O, including its GUI, to freeze). You are now back to the underlying shell, where you enter \log ("background") to continue the program in background. To put it back to foreground, enter \log ("foreground").

It is possible to have multiple programs in background. You can get an overview of all programs started from the current shell, which are called *jobs*, with <code>jobs</code>. The first number in the output table is the job ID. Enter

```
sh > fg %$jobid
```

to put the job with ID \$ jobid to foreground.

4.2 nano

nano is a very simple text editor for the command line that provides the most basic features that are expected from a text editor. It is useful for quick edits. nano's main advantages are simplicity and ease of use. nano can be started by typing:

```
sh> nano $file
```

The most important shortcuts to know are \[Ctrl] + \[O\] for saving the file, \[Ctrl] + \[X\] to exit, and \[Ctrl] + \[G\] for getting help.

By default, nano has some useful features disabled. It's a good idea to read the manual of nano, to get a feel of what nano can do. For example, you may want to enable mouse support by using the flag -m.

4.3 Vim

Vim has been a popular text editor for more than 25 years. It is very feature-rich and has a unique way of editing text that takes some time getting used to. Depending on how much typing you do, it will take a day or two until you are as fast as with *nano*. By far the best way to get started with *Vim* is to execute the command vimtutor. This provides a tutorial-style introduction.

To start Vim, type

sh> vim \$file

Hit I to start inserting text. Once you are done typing, hit Esc . To save a file, make sure that you are **not** currently inserting text (i.e., press [Esc], if you haven't already), then type : w and hit [Enter]. To quit, type : q, followed by Enter (again, make sure to hit Esc if you were inserting text before). Similarly, to quit without saving: :q!. Finally, to get help: :help. If something unexpected happens (which will happen, trust us), just hit Esc], followed by pressing [U] a couple of times. This will undo your last actions. To redo, hit Esc] and then Ctrl + R to redo one step.

4.4 Emacs

GNU Emacs has been first released over 40 years ago. Just like Vim, it is a very powerful text editor, with a steep learning curve and a ton of features. It is popular in electronics engineering for its powerful Verilog and VHDL modes (VHDL mode is developed at ETH³). Use it with:

```
emacs $file
sh>
```

To save a file, hit ctrl + x, followed by ctrl + s (you don't have to release the control key in-between). To close the editor, type [Ctrl] + [X], followed by [Ctrl] + [C]. For getting help, there are various commands. Probably the most useful one is executed by hitting [Ctrl] + [H], followed [A]. Then, type in the topic that you want to search for, and hit Enter. Emacs also has a tutorial that can be opened by Ctrl + H, followed by T 4.

4.5 Sublime-text

Sublime-text is a commercial lightweight graphical editor that is free to use and slightly more user-friendly than the alternatives above. It offers a variety of packages to expand its functionality, such as the SystemVerilog package to support SystemVerilog code we will be using throughout the exercises. If you are not that familiar yet with the numerous shortcuts in editors such as Emacs, Sublime-text can offer an easier start. Sublime-text can be started by typing:

```
sublime_text $file
```

Note that entire directories can also be opened using sublime, simply replacing \$file with a directory. While at home you can use PackageControl to install additional packages such as the SystemVerilog plugin, in the lab you will need to manually clone the package:

```
sh > cd ~/.config/sublime-text-3/Packages
sh>
    git clone https://github.com/TheClams/SystemVerilog
    cd ~/ex0/
sh>
```

Student Task 18: Try to do the following task with all the mentioned editors: Open examples/edit_me .txt, delete line 14, and save it. <muheim@ee.ethz.ch> - Wed Jun 15 09:48:51 CEST 2011 v0.1 - <munetn@ee.ethz.ch> - Wed Jun 15 09:48:51 CEST 2011
- copy from umcL90
v0.2 bm - Wed Jul 4 13:30:54 CEST 2012
- Remove the seating of the grid per gate set it in enc.tcl
v0.3 - <muheim@ee.ethz.ch> - Tue May 6 09:25:52 CEST 2014
- remove reportWire, reportGateCount Hints:

add summaryReport 9.4 - <nuheim@ee.ethz.ch> - Tue Sep 23 09:11:50 CEST 2014 create wellTapList when not existing use the first element of wellTapList is the design name specified ???

On the tardis machines, the tutorial is available by clicking on Em

```
gedit

nano

Hit ↓ 14 times, then hold Del and hit Ctrl + O Enter Ctrl + X to save and quit.

vim

Enter 14G to jump to line 14, enter dd to delete the entire line, and enter :x to save and quit.

Emacs

Hit Alt + G Alt + G 14 Enter to jump to line 14, Ctrl + Shift ↑ + ← to delete it, and finally Ctrl + X Ctrl + S to save and Ctrl + X Ctrl + C to quit.

sublime-text

Open the ex0 directory and use the mouse to select the file and edit.
```

5 Leveraging the Command Line

A purely text-based interface might initially come across as restricting and outdated. With the few basic concepts taught in this exercise, however, you will be able to use the shell to solve problems for which no single GUI tool exists.

5.1 Globbing (Wildcards)

Globbing is a useful tool to work with files that share a pattern. For example, to refer to all tcl scripts in a directory, you can use *.tcl. The * means 'any number of any characters', so this pattern will give you all files that end with .tcl. Similarly, directory/* will give you all files in directory, except hidden files.

For example, to list all files ending in .pp inside the encounter/src directory, you could use:

```
sh> ls encounter/src/*.pp
```

There are a few more useful patterns, such as ? which matches any *single* character, or *.{tcl,pdf}, which is a list that matches both .tcl and .pdf files. To learn more, you can have a look at man 7 glob.⁵

Note 5: The shell expands globs *before* executing a statement. Globs without matches, however, remain unchanged. In the example above, the statement that really gets executed is

```
sh > ls encounter/src/qfn40.VDD.pp encounter/src/qfn40.VSS.pp
```

whereas

```
sh > ls encounter/src/*.cc
```

would be executed as-is because there are no files matching the glob.

If you want to prevent glob expansion, wrap the expression in quotes.

Note 6 (Single vs. double quotes): Enclosing characters in *single* quotes (') preserves the literal value of *each* character (including spaces and line breaks) within the quotes. *Double* quotes (") also preserve the literal value for all except the following characters, which get a special meaning: \$ and ` (see Shell Expansions), \ (see Escape Character), and * and @ (see Shell Parameter Expansion).

Patterns for find or grep (described in the following sections), for example, should be enclosed in *single* quotes unless you need the special meaning of a character.

Student Task 19: Output the contents of all files that end in .txt in examples/globbing/ to the command line with a single command. The output will tell you if you did it correctly. Note the statement you used.

yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1/ex0/files/examples/globbing\$ cat *.txt

This is

The '7' in m with the sar output!

Hint: Recall the cat program.

Student Task 20: Output the contents of all files that end in .TEXT and .TXT (mind the upper case letters!) in examples/globbing/ to the command line with a *single* command. The output will tell you if you did it correctly. Note the statement you used.

```
yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1/ex0/files/examples/globbing$ cat *.TEXT && cat *.TXT
FILE 1 OF 2. This should only be here for the second globbing task!
FILE 2 OF 2. This should also only be here for the second globbing task!
```

5.2 Pipes

Pipes are useful to connect multiple commands together. One of the design principles of Unix was "do one thing, and do it well". This means, tools should be simple and powerful in their specific domain, but there should also be a mechanism to combine multiple programs in an easy way. This mechanism is the *pipe*, the | symbol. It allows you to connect the output of one program to the input of another program.

For example, we can combine find and grep to work together. Let's say you want to find all .tcl scripts for the *Encounter* tool. We could first find all .tcl files with find, and then grep for 'encounter':

```
sh> find . -name '*.tcl' | grep 'encounter'
```

You will find out exactly how find and grep work in the following sections.

Student Task 21: In Unix, you can use wc (wordcount) to count words, lines (-1 flag) or characters of a file. With cat, you can output multiple files to the command line (con*cat*enate). Use a pipeline to count the lines of all .sv files in sourcecode/ (not including any subdirectories) and note the statement you used.

```
yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1/ex0/files/sourcecode$ cat *.sv | wc -l
1055
```

5.3 Sort

1055 total

The sort command can be used to sort lines of text files. Of course the ability to sort something in some specific way can be useful in general, but it starts being especially useful when sorting inputs numerically. To sort numerically, sort makes use of the -n flag.

Another input type that often needs to be sorted is file sizes. For example, if we wanted to find out which of our directories used up the most space on our hard drive, we could use the du command in conjunction with the sort command. du stands for "disk usage". Note that the du command provides information about disk usage, which differs from the file size. It reports in multiples of the filesystem block size, which means a file's reported size may be larger if it doesn't fully utilize a block. Block-oriented storage devices like hard drives and SSDs function by organizing data into fixed-size blocks. When a file is written to such a device, there might be a block that isn't entirely filled. Consequently, disk usage, as shown by du, is rounded up to account for the entire block being used. The whole command looks as follows:

```
sh>
      du -sh * | sort -h
            yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1/ex0/files$ wc -l ./sourcecode/*.sv | sort -n
By now you st
              27 ./sourcecode/stream_demux.sv
with any numb
              27 ./sourcecode/x_counter.sv
example, both
              29 ./sourcecode/stream_mux.sv
the case of da
              29 ./sourcecode/y counter.sv
sorts "humanl
              32 ./sourcecode/rgb_grayscaler.sv
              33 ./sourcecode/rgb_inverter.sv
In fact, it is co
              40 ./sourcecode/filt_fsm.sv
For instance,
              46 ./sourcecode/rgb_spill_reg.sv
even ones tha
              56 ./sourcecode/rst_gen.sv
"recursive" - t
              59 ./sourcecode/rgb_mux.sv
command line
              72 ./sourcecode/rgb_contrast_adj.sv
              76 ./sourcecode/rgb_saturator.sv
              85 ./sourcecode/debouncer.sv
              85 ./sourcecode/rgb_proc.sv
              92 ./sourcecode/spill register.sv
              94 ./sourcecode/rgb reg.sv
             173 ./sourcecode/vid_pipeline.sv
```

Student Task 22: Count the number of lines in each file in sourcecode/, and then sort them by the number of lines. Note the statement you used.

Hint: Take a look at Note 5 and check out the cheat sheet for useful commands.

Student Task 23: Order all files in sourcecode/ by their size. The largest file should be at the top of the output. Remember that you can use du for tasks that involve outputting the size of files. Note the statement you used.

Bonus: Only output the three largest files.

Hint: Look at the manual of head and tail.

x counter.sv

4

```
lyaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1/ex0/files/sourcecode$ du *.sv | sort -rn | head -n 3
8     vid_pipeline.sv
4     y_counter.sv
```

5.4 Find

Looking for specific files on your system is a task that one has to do fairly regularly. Two commands that are among the absolute best in looking for files with certain properties are find and grep. In this section, we cover find. As a rule of thumb, find is best used when you know that your file has certain metadata: maybe you know approximately when you have created the file, when you last looked at it, how large it is, etc. In contrast, grep is usually used when wanting to sift through *the content* of a file.

find works by essentially filtering all files through a chain of conditions. The conditions are given by flags. Working with find is fairly straightforward and almost like verbally explaining what you are looking for.

```
sh> find -mtime -1 -size +100k
```

This searches for all files that have been modified (-mtime) less than one day ago (-1) and have size (-size) larger than 100 Kilobytes (+100k). find has a lot of conditions where it makes sense to specify "greater than" or "smaller than". This is specified by prefixing the amount with a + or a -. This is why the condition "larger than 100 Kilobytes" is written as -size +100k. If we additionally knew that our file was smaller than a gigabyte, we would type:

```
sh> find -mtime -1 -size +100k -size -2G
```

It's necessary to use -2G here. This may seem a bit surprising at first, but this is just because file sizes are rounded up. Table 5 shows an overview of tests for find that are useful to know by heart.

Test	Description
-name	Matches the name of a file.
-size	Condition on the size of a file.
-atime	Condition on when file was last accessed.
-mtime	Condition on when file was last modified.
-type	Specifies type of file (directory, regular file).

Table 5: Commonly used find tests.

Student Task 24: Search for all files in ~/ex0 with names ending in .sv that have a size larger than 5 Kilobytes and note the statement you used.

```
yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1/ex0$ find . -name *.sv -size +5k
./files/sourcecode/tb/rgb_proc_tester.sv
./files/sourcecode/tb/rgb_proc_tb.sv
```

5.5 Grep and Regexes

While working with many files in different dictories, you quickly find yourself losing overview. To quickly find something in one of many files, you can use grep. Grep is a tool for searching a body of text to find a specified pattern. Those patterns are specified with a syntax called "Regular Expressions" or regex(es).

Regexes can be *very* complicated (there are entire books on regexes). We'll have a look at the very basics here. Regexes are comprised of a string of characters, e.g., foo.bar[0-9]. Let's take that regex apart:

- foo matches the literal word "foo",
- · . matches any single character,
- · bar matches the literal word "bar", and
- [0-9] matches a single digit between 0 and 9.

That regex would match all of the following strings, among others: "foo_bar1", "foo bar0", "fooobar9", "foozbar5", and "foolbar2".

To quickly find out whether a string matches a regex, use echo to pipe the string into grep. For example:

```
sh> echo foo1bar2 | grep -Eo 'foo.bar[0-9]'
```

would output the input string, foolbar2.

The $-\circ$ and $-\mathbb{E}$ options are described together with other commonly used grep options in Table 6. Table 7 shows common regex pattern elements.

The syntax for grep is

```
sh> grep $options '$pattern' $path
```

<code>\$options</code> and <code>\$path</code> are optional. If you omit <code>\$path</code>, <code>grep</code> searches the standard output (useful in pipes, like in the example above) or the current working directory when the <code>-r</code> option is used.

Command	Description
-E	Enable the extended regex syntax. This means that the characters ?, +, , {, }, (, and) become special modifiers (see Table 7). If you want to match those characters literally, you have to escape them with a preceding backslash.
-r	Recursively look at all files under the given directory.
-0	Only print the matching strings, not the entire line.
-h	Do not print the filename, just the matching string/line.
-1	Only print the paths of matches, not the matched string.
-n	Prefix the output with the linenumber where the match occured.

Table 6: Common options for grep.

Regex	Example	Description
		Match Expressions
<char. literal=""></char.>	f	Matches the single character <char. literal=""> literally. The example matches f.</char.>
	•	Any single character.
[<char1>-<char2>]</char2></char1>	[a-z]	A single character in the range from <char1> to <char2> (inclusive). The example matches any lowercase character. The character range can be specified multiple times, like so: [a-zA-z0-9]. This would match any lower- or uppercase character or digit.</char2></char1>
[[:alpha:]]	idem	A single letter.
[[:digit:]]	idem	A single digit.
[[:alnum:]]	idem	A single alphanumeric character (i.e., either letter or digit).
[[:xdigit:]]	idem	A single hexadecimal character.
\w	idem	A single "word" character, i.e., a digit, a letter, or an underscore.
\.	idem	A single period (i.e., .) character. The literals $?, +, , \{, \}, ($, and $)$ have to be entered correspondingly with a preceding backslash (\setminus).
		Modifiers
?	.?	The ? means "maybe", meaning that the preceding expression appears zero times or exactly once. The example would match an empty string or a string of length 1.
*	. *	The \star means that the preceding expression appears zero, one, or many times. The example would match a string of arbi-
files/en files/en files/en BUFM8W A BUFM40	ncounter/enc.tc ncounter/src/sa ncounter/src/sa BUFM10W BUFM12 DWA BUFM48WA CK	/ex0\$ grep -Er 'BUFM[0-9]+W' sort -u l:setDoAssign on -buffer BUFM2W mple/chip.ctstch:#AddDriverCell CKBUFM12W mple/chip.ctstch:#Buffer BUFM2W BUFM4W BUFM3W BUFM6W BUFM5W W BUFM14W BUFM16W BUFM18W BUFM22WA BUFM20W BUFM24W BUFM26WA BUFM32W BUFM2W CKBUFM1W CKBUFM4W CKBUFM3W CKBUFM6W CKBUFM8W CKBUFM12W CKBUF 2WA CKBUFM24W CKBUFM26WA CKBUFM32W CKBUFM40W CKBUFM48W CKINVM2W CKI
24W CKIN	NVM26WA CKINVM3	W CKINVM6W CKINVM8W CKINVM12W CKINVM16W CKINVM20W CKINVM22WA CKINVM 2W CKINVM40W CKINVM48W INVM2W INVM1W INVM4W INVM3W INVM6W INVM5W IN NVM14W INVM16W INVM18W INVM20W INVM22WA INVM24W INVM26WA INVM32W IN
{ <num1>,<rvm40w in<br="">files/en 3UFM8W B</rvm40w></num1>	NVM48W ncounter/src/sa BUFM10W BUFM12W	mple/chip.ctstch:Buffer BUFM2W BUFM4W BUFM3W BUFM6W BUFM5W BUFM14W BUFM16W BUFM18W BUFM22WA BUFM20W BUFM24W BUFM26WA BUFM32WA
(<pattern>16W CKBU VM1W CKI 4W CKINV</pattern>	JFM20W CKBUFM22I INVM4W CKINVM3W /M26WA CKINVM32I 110W INVM12W IN	UFM2W CKBUFM1W CKBUFM4W CKBUFM3W CKBUFM6W CKBUFM8W CKBUFM12W CKBUFM WA CKBUFM24W CKBUFM26WA CKBUFM32W CKBUFM40W CKBUFM48W CKINVM2W CKIN CKINVM6W CKINVM8W CKINVM12W CKINVM16W CKINVM20W CKINVM22WA CKINVM2 W CKINVM40W CKINVM48W INVM2W INVM1W INVM4W INVM3W INVM6W INVM5W INV VM14W INVM16W INVM18W INVM20W INVM22WA INVM24W INVM26WA INVM32W INV
files/en Table 7: (CKBUFM1 48W CKIN	ncounter/src/sa L2W CKBUFM16W C IVM3W CKINVM4W	mple/chip.ctstch:Buffer CKBUFM3W CKBUFM4W CKBUFM6W CKBUFM8W KBUFM20W CKBUFM22WA CKBUFM24W CKBUFM26WA CKBUFM32W CKBUFM40W CKBUFM CKINVM6W CKINVM8W CKINVM12W CKINVM16W CKINVM20W CKINVM22WA CKINVM24 CKINV <u>M</u> 40W CKINVM48W

Student Task 25: Try to find all files in ~/ex0 where the pattern 'BUFMnW', where n is a natural number (with possibly multiple digits, of course), occurs. Which grep options and what regex pattern do you have to use? How many unique matches are there? In which files are they?

Hint: Filter out duplicates in a newline-separated list by piping it into sort -u (for "unique").

Student Task 26: Lots of people will leave their e-mail addresses in files. Try to find all ETHZ e-mail addresses (i.e., user@department.ethz.ch or user@machine_or_group.department.ethz.ch) in all files in the exercise directory. Come up with a regex to match e-mail addresses, and filter out any duplicates. How many can you find?

yarostav@ratel:~/vlst1/exo\$ grep -Eorh '\b[A-Za-z0-9._%+-]+@[A-Za-z0-9.-]+\.ethz\.ch\b'| sort -u
fschuiki@tis.ee.ethz.ch
muhetm@ee.ethz.ch
vlst1@tis.ee.ethz.ch
Tint: There are more than 0 but less than 5.

Note 7: If you want to test your regex commands on sample input, you can check out https://regex101.com/ to evaluate your syntax.

5.6 Diff

When you want to compare two files, diff comes in handy. With diff, you can find the lines in which two files are different.

```
sh> diff file1 file2
```

Student Task 27: A friend of yours sent you a new version of a program you are working on. When testing it, you notice it doesn't work anymore (original: examples/diff/prepare_chip.pl, new: examples/diff/prepare_chip_v2.pl). Use diff to find out on which line your friend introduced the error.

6.1 Creating a simple bash script

In this task you will learn how to write a simple bash (shell) script. Bash scripts are extremely useful to automate repetitive tasks. They can make your life a lot easier and help you save time.

```
Student Task 28: We start by creating a script file and making it executable.

sh > touch ex0_script.sh

[sudo] password for yaroslav:
yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1/ex0$
```

Now we have to make this executable. By default, a new file will not be marked executable. This is an important safety measure, imagine you could just execute any malicious script!

```
Student Task 29:

sh > chmod +x ex0_script.sh

yaroslav@ratel:~/vlsi1/ex0$ sudo chmod +x ex0_script.sh
```

+x means that executable rights are added. There are three basics permissions for files in Unix: *read*, *write* and *execute*. To see what rights are currently set, you can use 1s -1 (in many shell configurations abbreviated as 11). The leftmost column will indicate what rights the owner of the file, users from the same group as the owner, and everyone else has. The format can be observed in the two following examples: The first character indicates file type, then there are 3 rwx triplets for *owner*, *group* and *others*. For example:

```
-rw-r--r--
drwxr-xr-x
```

 ${\tt r}$ stands for reading permission, ${\tt w}$ stands for writing permission, ${\tt x}$ stands for execution permission on files and access permission on directories, ${\tt d}$ means the file is a directory, and – indicates a normal file in the first column and "no right" otherwise.

Student Task 30: Let us continue the work on our script. Open ex0_script.sh in a text editor, and add the following as the first line: #!/bin/bash

```
This first line, starting with #!, (call yaroslav@ratel:~$ cat ex0_script.sh of interpret the rest of the file. In this call yaroslav@ratel:~$ cat ex0_script.sh

To execute the script, do the following yaroslav@ratel:~$ sh ex0_script.sh
```

The ./ notation means, the shell will look to execute a file in the current directory. If you wouldn't specify this, the shell would go and search for a ex0_script.sh executable file in your default search path.

Student Task 31: You can now put anything in your script, that you could also type in the terminal by hand. Make your script output "Hello world!". **Hint:** Look up the echo command.

Bash is not entirely different from other programming language #!/bin/bash control structes like for/while loops and if/else conditionals. The

```
if [ "string1" != "string2" ]; then
   echo "the strings are not equal."
fi
```

```
yaroslav@ratel:~$ cat ex0_script.sh
#!/bin/bash
echo 'MKULTRA'
yaroslav@ratel:~$ sh ex0_script.sh
MKULTRA
```

Note 8: Contrary to most other programming languages, the spaces between the brackets and operators are *vital* in Bash. As a matter of fact, [is not actually part of the "bash language", it is a separate program called test.

Student Task 32: Add an if condition to your script that tests if the file examples/test_file exists. If it does (it definitely should), output the message "file found". Hint: Consult the manual of test (man \test).

line or corresponding program. As each OS is different, a list is provided below:

- Linux: Terminal
- macOS: Terminal
- Windows: PowerShell (for Windows versions above 10.1803)
- **Mobile OSes**: There exist a variety of Apps that allow you to access ssh for both iOS, Android, and similar, however a proper computer is recommended.

Once in the corresponding program, accessing a remote computer is as easy as typing the command ssh along with the username at the destination/host computer, the '@' symbol, and the computer's IP address or hostname. For computers at D-ITET, all hostnames are of the form <code>computer_name.ee.ethz.ch</code>. The command line should then prompt you for a password for the corresponding user. Please note that you may need to be within the ETHZ network (or VPN) for this.

```
sh> ssh $USER@$HOSTNAME
```

Note 9: Please be aware that typing passwords in the command line will not show up, not even showing a symbol for each character typed. You are typing, however, press enter to submit the password.

If you are outside of the ETHZ network and do not want to use a VPN, you have the possibility to establish a "direct" connection to the target host via the login server login.ee.ethz.ch.

Student Task 33: From your private machine, attempt to connect to the VLSI account on the machine you are using during the exercise.

As typing passwords can be quite cumbersome, authentication is also possible through an ssh key stored on your computer. These use public key cryptography to ensure the connecting client is authorized. To enable this, an ssh key needs to be generated and transmitted to the server.

If you have already generated an ssh key, for example to easily connect to github, this step may not be necessary. Generally, keys are stored in the hidden directory in you home folder ~/.ssh/ as a private and public pair. To generate a new key, use the ssh-keygen command below, substituting your email address. To copy the public key to a remote server, you can copy the contents of the id_rsa.pub file, or use the ssh-copy-id command below, which copies the content of your id_rsa.pub into a new line in ~/.ssh/authorized_keys on the remote server.

```
sh> ssh-keygen -t rsa -b 4096 -C "your_email@example.com" sh> ssh-copy-id $USER@$HOSTNAME
```

Copying files through the network is also possible using the Secure copy protocol (scp). The command is shown below and works similar to the ssh command regarding a host, while similar flags can be used as with the cp command, such as the -r flag for recursively copying a directory. Please note that in order to copy a file from your computer to the remote machine, the order can be reversed to the command below.

```
sh> scp $USER@$HOSTNAME:/path/to/source_file /path/to/target_file
```

Note 10: For a more scalable alternative to scp you can check out rsync.

If a GUI is desired from a remote computer, <code>vncserver</code> can be used. More information is available here: <code>https://computing.ee.ethz.ch/RemoteAccess/VNC</code>

8 Cheat Sheet

Command	Description		
	GETTING HELP		
man	Show the manual of a program, syscall, library, etc.		
	Navigating		
pwd	Display the current working directory.		
cd	Change the current working directory to the given directory.		
ls	List all files and directories in the current working directory.		
tree	Get a visualization of the directory tree under the current working directory.		
	Viewing files and directories		
cat	Concatenate the content of one or multiple files and output the result.		
head	Output the first couple of lines to the terminal.		
tail	Output the last couple of lines to the terminal.		
less	Browse a file in a visual viewer.		
diff	Compare files line by line.		
	Manipulating files and directories		
mkdir	Create a new directory with a given name.		
rmdir	Remove a directory. Will not work with non-empty directories.		
rm	Remove a file or directory (recursively, with -r) and its contents. Warning: There is no trashcan on the command line! Files and directories will be deleted irrevocably.		
ср	Copy a source file or directory (recursively, with -r) to a target.		
mv	Move a file or directory. Also used to rename files/directories.		
touch	Create a new file if it doesn't exist yet.		
chmod	Change file permissions.		
	SEARCHING FILES OR CONTENT AND SORTING		
find	Search for files (by attributes) in a directory hierarchy.		
grep	Find lines in files that match some pattern.		
sort	Sort input by some criterion		
	Various utilities		
du	Show file space usage.		
uniq	Report or omit repeated lines.		
WC	Count words, lines or characters.		
	Remote access		
ssh	Secure Shell to access the command line of a remote computer		
scp	Secure Copy, to copy files from a remote machine		

Table 8: Overview of important shell commands.

History

The shell will keep a history of all commands you type in. You can scroll through the commands you typed by pressing $\uparrow \uparrow$. To get back again to more recent history, press $\downarrow \downarrow \uparrow$.

But what if you know you used some command before, but just can't remember it? You can try to find it with the arrow keys, or just search for it by pressing $\lceil Ctr \rceil + \lceil R \rceil$. To abort, press $\lceil Ctr \rceil + \lceil C \rceil$ or $\lceil Esc \rceil$.

If things get too cluttered, you can use the command clear to tidy up your terminal. This command clears the terminal screen, including its scroll-back buffers. If you want to clear the terminal screen but keep your scroll-back buffers, then you can use the $\lceil Ctr \rceil + \lceil L \rceil$ shortcut.

— Please also see flipside. —

Keyboard commands

There are a few keyboard commands that can make you *a lot* faster when entering long commands. Instead of always using your arrow keys to edit commands, try some of these!

Keystroke	Description
Ctrl] + W	Delete the part of the word before the cursor.
Ctrl + U	Delete the part of the line before the cursor.
Ctrl + L	Clear the terminal.
Ctrl + A	Go to the beginning of the line.
Ctrl + E	Go to the end of the line.
Ctrl + C	Terminate the currently running process.
Ctrl + D	End of file, quits the shell if pressed on an empty line.

Note (Copying and pasting): You might have noticed the usual commands of ctrl + c / ctrl + v don't work in the terminal. This is because those keyboard commands already have another meaning (see the table above).

To copy/paste from/to a terminal you can select any text with the left mouse button. The selection will automatically be placed in a special selection buffer. You can then paste it by pressing the middle mouse button (click the scroll wheel).

If that does not work or you prefer key combinations, most terminals support copying with $\lceil Ctr \rceil + \lceil Shift \uparrow \rceil + \lceil C \rceil$ and pasting with $\lceil Ctr \rceil + \lceil Shift \uparrow \rceil + \lceil V \rceil$.

9 Epilog



This exercise sheet was co-authored by $TheAlternative^6$ a community dedicated to Linux and Free Software in general. If you want to learn more about how you can use Linux, have a look at the courses and workshops we do during the *Linux Days* on their website.

If you are interested in more resources, check out the following links:

- Bash Quick Guide: https://thealternative.ch/guides/bash.php
- Bash Hackers Wiki: http://wiki.bash-hackers.org/

⁶ https://thealternative.ch/