

UNIX Command-Line Cheat Sheet

BTI BCBC Bioinformatics Course

File system Commands		
Is	lists directories and files	
Is -a	lists all files including hidden files	
Is -lh	formatted list including more data	
ls -t	lists sorted by date	
pwd	returns path to working directory	
cd dir	changes directory	
cd	goes to parent directory	
cd /	goes to root directory	
cd	goes to home directory	
touch file_name	creates en empty file	
cp file file_copy	copy a file	
cp -r	copy files contained in directories	
rm file	deletes a file	
rm -r dir	deletes a directory and its files	
mv file1 file2	moves or renames a file	
mkdir dir_name	creates a directory	
rmdir dir_name	deletes a directory	
locate file_name	searches a file	
man command	shows commands manual	
top	shows process activity	
df -h	shows disk space info	
apt-get install	installs applications in linux	

Compression commands		
gzip/zip	compress a file	
gunzip/unzip	decompress a file	
tar -cvf	groups files	
tar -xvf	ungroups files	
tar -zcvf	groups and gzip files	
tar -zxvf	gunzip and ungroups files	

Text handling commands		
command > file	saves STDOUT in a file	
command >> file	appends STDOUT in a file	
cat file	concatenate and print files	
cat file file2 > file3	merges files I and 2 into file3	
cat *fasta > all.fasta	concatenates all fasta files in the current directory	
head file	prints first lines from a file	
head -n 5 file	prints first five lines from a file	
tail file	prints last lines from a file	
tail -n 5 file	prints last five lines from a file	
less file	view a file	
less -N file	includes line numbers	
less -S file	wraps long lines	
grep 'pattern' file	Prints lines matching a pattern	
grep -c 'pattern' file	counts lines matching a pattern	
cut -f 1,3 file	retrieves data from selected columns in a tab-delimited file	
sort file	sorts lines from a file	
sort -u file	sorts and return unique lines	
uniq -c file	filters adjacent repeated lines	
wc file	counts lines, words and bytes	
paste file l file2	concatenates the lines of input files	
paste -d ";"	concatenates the lines of input files by commas	
sed	transforms text	

Networking Commands		
wget URL	download a file from an URL	
ssh user@server	connects to a server	
scp	copy files between computers	