Linux Commands Cheat Sheet

Command	Explanation
cd <dir>	Change directories. When run without any arguments, go to your home directory.
ls	List contents of a directory. **ls -l** is a long list with more info.
man <command>	Manual for the command. Space=forward, b=backwards, q=quit, /=search.
pwd	Print working directory. Shows you where you currently reside on the directory tree.
gzip <files>	Compress files.
gunzip <files.gz>	Decompress files.
history	Display command line history.
cat <files>	Print files to the screen (conCATenate)
less <files>	Open the file for viewing. Space=forward, b=backwards, q=quit, /=search.
head <file>	Prints the first few lines of the file.
tail <file>	Prints the last few lines of the file.
grep <pattern> <file>	Pulls out lines from the file matching the pattern.
wc <files>	Word count on files.
cp <src> <dest>	Copies file from source to destination.
mv <src> <dest>	Moves the file from source to destination. If dest is a directory, this will move the src file into the dest directory. Otherwise, this will rename the file called src to a file called dest.
nano	A basic text editor
which	Tells you where a program resides
chmod +x <file>	Makes a file executable
find .	Finds all files in the current directory recursively. Add **-type f** to limit to files only. Add **-name "pattern"** to restrict files found to matching the pattern.
parallel "cmd {}"	Runs the command **cmd** on each file passed in on a pipe from find, which assumes the place of {}. E.g., running the command: **find . -name "*.fastq"	parallel "somecommand {} > {}.results.txt"** Would go through all the fastq files found and run somecommand on that file, redirecting the output to a file ending in .results.txt. E.g. **somecommand sample1.fastq > sample1.fastq.results.txt** **somecommand sample2.fastq > sample2.fastq.results.txt** **somecommand sample3.fastq > sample3.fastq.results.txt**

Shortcut	Location
.	The current directory, "here".
..	The parent directory relative to here ("the directory above")
~	Your home directory. Same as /home/<username>.