

Unix Cheatsheet - Common Commands

To get the help page/manual for any linux command either type

`man <command>` e.g. `man ls`

or

`<command> --help` e.g. `rm --help`

Command	Use	Examples
<code>ls</code>	List files	<code>ls</code> (list files in current directory) <code>ls fastq</code> (list files inside fastq directory)
<code>cd</code>	Move between (change) directories	<code>cd fastq</code> (move into the fastq directory) <code>cd fastq/data1</code> (move into the <code>data1</code> directory inside the <code>fastq</code> directory) <code>cd ..</code> (To move to the parent of the current directory) <code>cd ~</code> (To move to “home” directory)
<code>mkdir</code>	make new directory	<code>mkdir my_folder</code>
<code>pwd</code>	Where am I?	
<code>mv</code>	move a file or directory	<code>mv my_file my_folder/.</code> (move <code>my_file</code> into a <code>my_folder</code>) <code>mv my_file my_new_file</code> (equivalent of renaming <code>my_file</code> to <code>my_new_file</code>)
<code>cp</code>	copy file	<code>cp my_file new_file</code>
<code>cp -r</code>	copy folder	<code>cp -r my_folder my_new_folder</code>
<code>rm</code>	Remove a file	<code>rm file</code>
<code>rm -r</code>	Remove a folder	<code>rm -r folder</code>
<code>cat</code>	Print file content	<code>cat my_file</code>
<code>zcat</code>	Print file content of compressed files	<code>zcat SRR7889597.fastq.gz</code>
<code>less</code>	Displays the contents of a file	<code>less my_file.txt</code> (press q to quit)
<code>head</code>	Displays the first ten lines of a file	<code>head my_file.txt</code>
<code>tail</code>	Displays the last ten lines of a file	<code>tail my_file.txt</code>
<code>wc</code>	count lines, words and characters	<code>wc my_file</code>
<code>grep</code>	Pattern matching	<code>grep hello my_file</code> (get lines in <code>my_file</code> that contain the word “hello”)
<code>cut</code>	extract columns from files	<code>cut -f 2 my_file.txt</code> (extract second column)
<code>sort</code>	sort the rows of a file	<code>sort my_file.txt</code>
<code>uniq</code>	keep unique rows (remove duplicates)	<code>uniq my_file.txt</code>