

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

# Introduction to the Command Line for Biologists

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National Institute of  
Allergy and  
Infectious Diseases

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# But...but...but...

- Why do I have to learn about the command line?
- What IS the command line?
- I like my...
  - Mac OS
  - Windows OS
  - GUI (Graphical user interface)
  - ...
- Relax!

# Objectives

- Explain one or more advantages to using the command line for research
- Explain one or more advantages to using the command line for programming
- Be able to get to the command line on your computer
- Understand how to navigate a linux operating system
- Know one or more command to examine and manipulate large files (1 gigbit+)

# Outline

- Motivation
- A brief history of Linux
- Defining some terms
- Command line
  - Getting in, getting out
- Just enough...
  - Navigation
  - Working with Files
  - Grep
  - Pipelining
- Where you can learn more

# Motivation

# Motivation: Why Learn to Use the Command Line

- Enable you to write successful python programs
  - Programs that require you to know where your data file IS, and where you want your output to GO!

# Motivation: Why Learn to Use the Command Line

- Enable you to run the many common bioinformatics software programs
  - Open source bioinformatics software are available for Linux and can be run on a laptop, desktop, or computing cluster (aka super computer)

# Motivation: Why Learn to Use the Command Line

- Enable you to perform analyses on computer clusters
  - Analyze data that is too large to analyze on a laptop or desktop

# Motivation:

## Why Learn to Use the Command Line

- Enable you to use (some of the many) linux programs to do one thing very well and fast
  - Working with text files is especially fast and easy, even for very large files

# Motivation:

## Why Learn to Use the Command Line

- Enable you to compete with most biologists who know how to use the command line and give you a competitive advantage over those who do not

# Motivation: Why Learn to Use the Command Line

- Use the best tool for the job...

# Motivation:

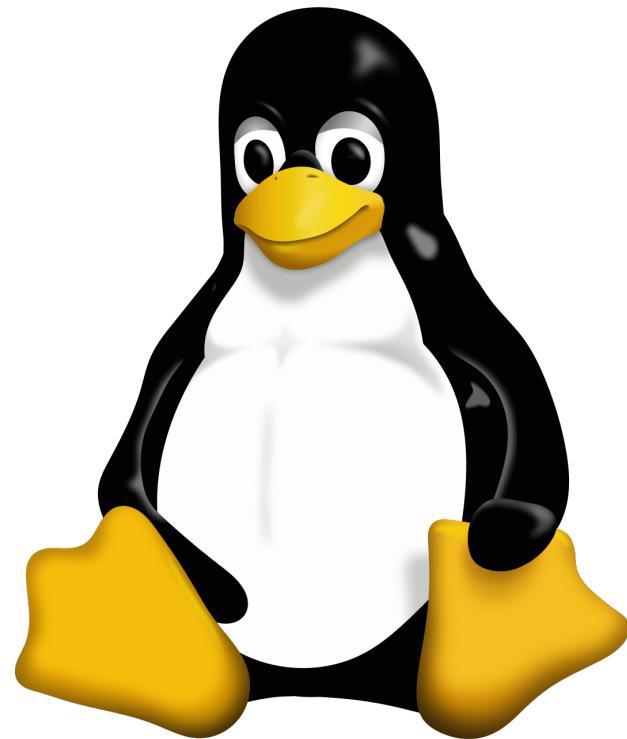
## Why Learn to Use the Command Line

- Enable you to take one step closer to becoming a reproducible scientist
  - How might embracing the command line (and python programming) enable your research to be more reproducible?

# A Brief History of Linux

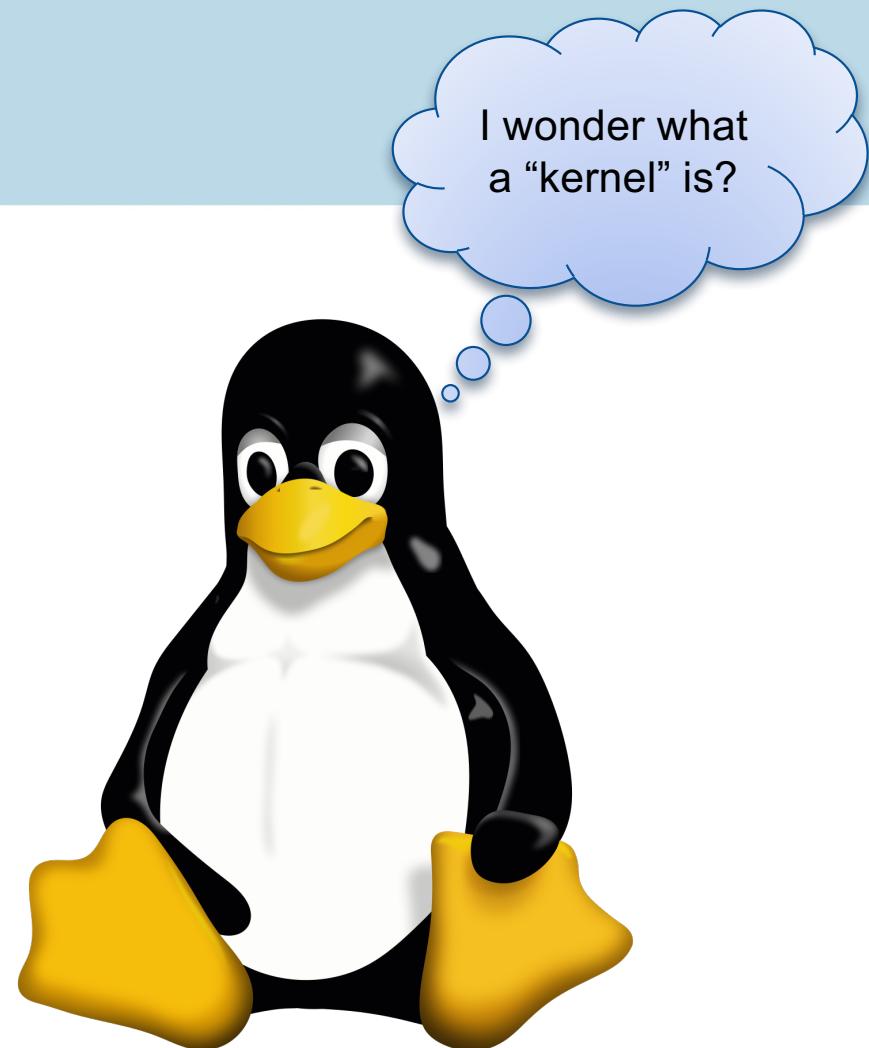
# What is Linux?

- Version 1:
  - An free and open source operating system (OS) that interacts with, and controls, computer hardware; similar to macOS, Windows



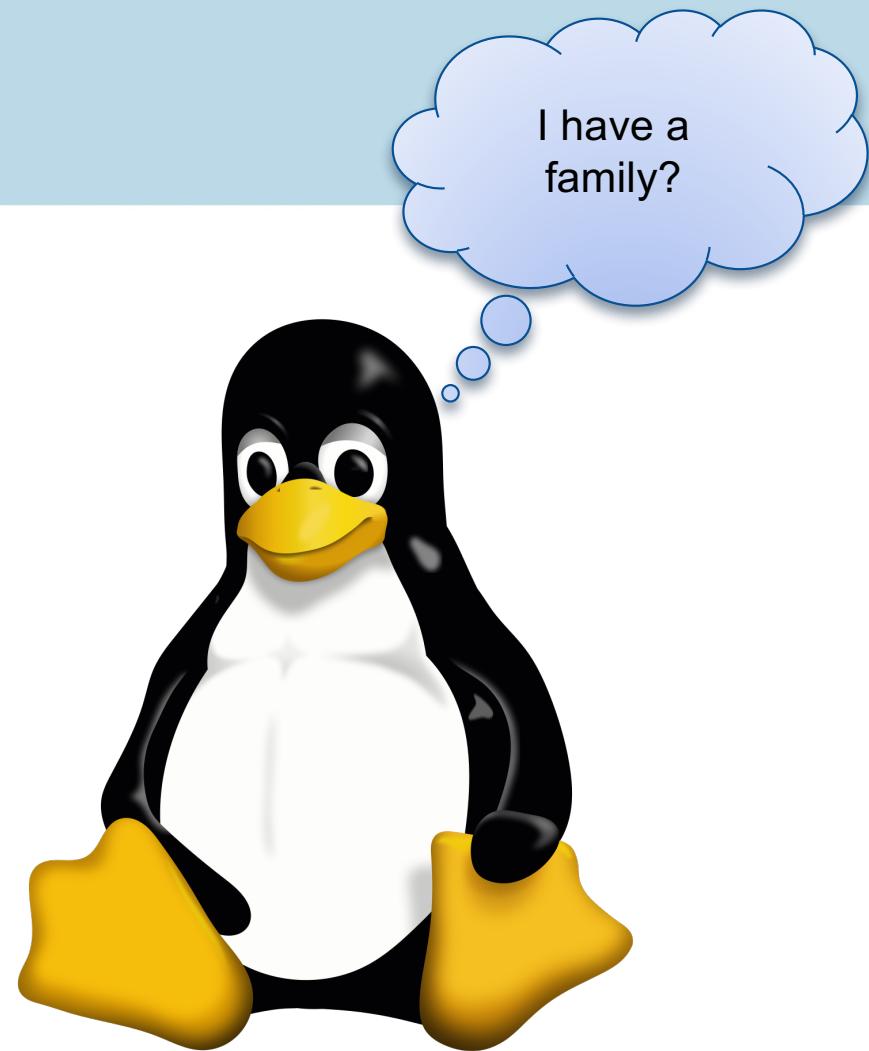
# What is Linux?

- Version 2:
  - A free and open source operating system (OS), **built using the linux kernel**, that interacts with, and controls, computer hardware; similar to macOS, Windows



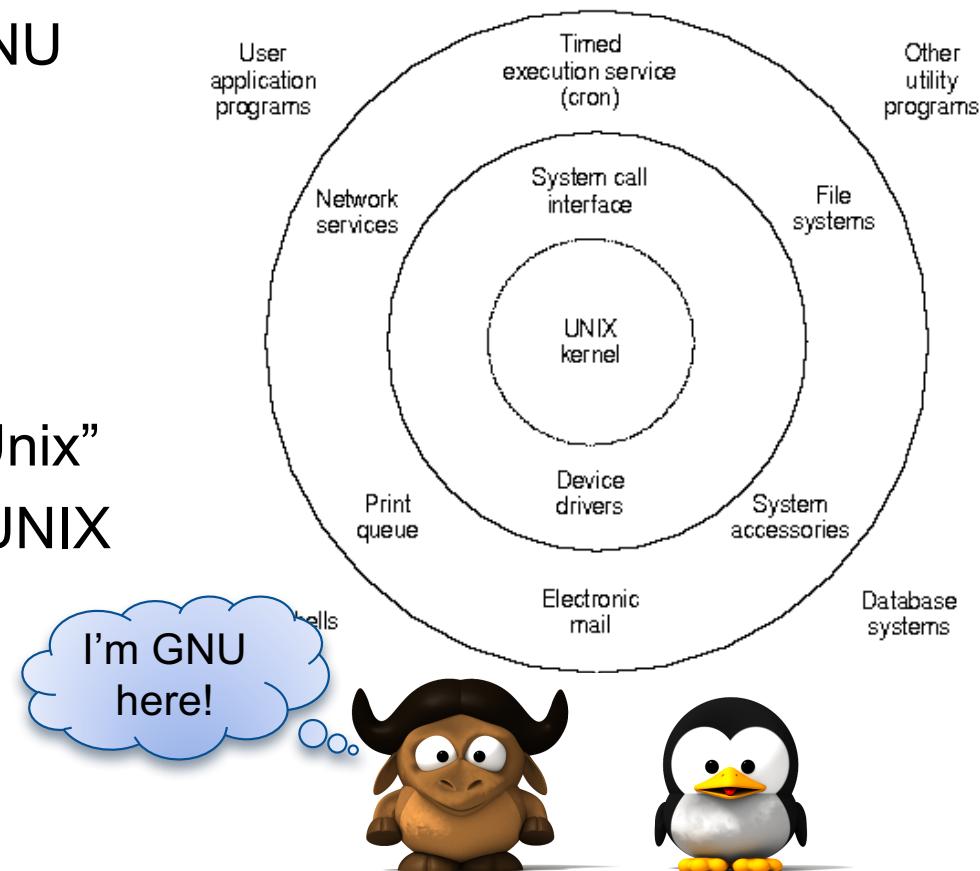
# What is Linux?

- Version 3:
  - “A family of free and open-source software operating system distributions built around the Linux kernel”



# What is Linux?

- What is the rest of that stuff?
  - Programs written by GNU project programmers
  - Shell, etc
- GNU/Linux
  - “GNU” = “GNU is Not Unix”
  - Linux = GNU/Linux = UNIX  
(=> POSIX)



# Why Recreate UNIX?

## UNIX

- Developed at AT&T Bell Labs in 1969
- Commercial
- Capabilities / Philosophy:
  - Scalability
  - Modularity
  - Portability

## Linux (kernel)

- Developed by Linus Torvalds in 1991
- **Open Source**
- Capabilities / Philosophy:
  - Scalability
  - Modularity
  - Portability
  - Free

# Introduction: UNIX vs. Linux vs. macOS vs Windows

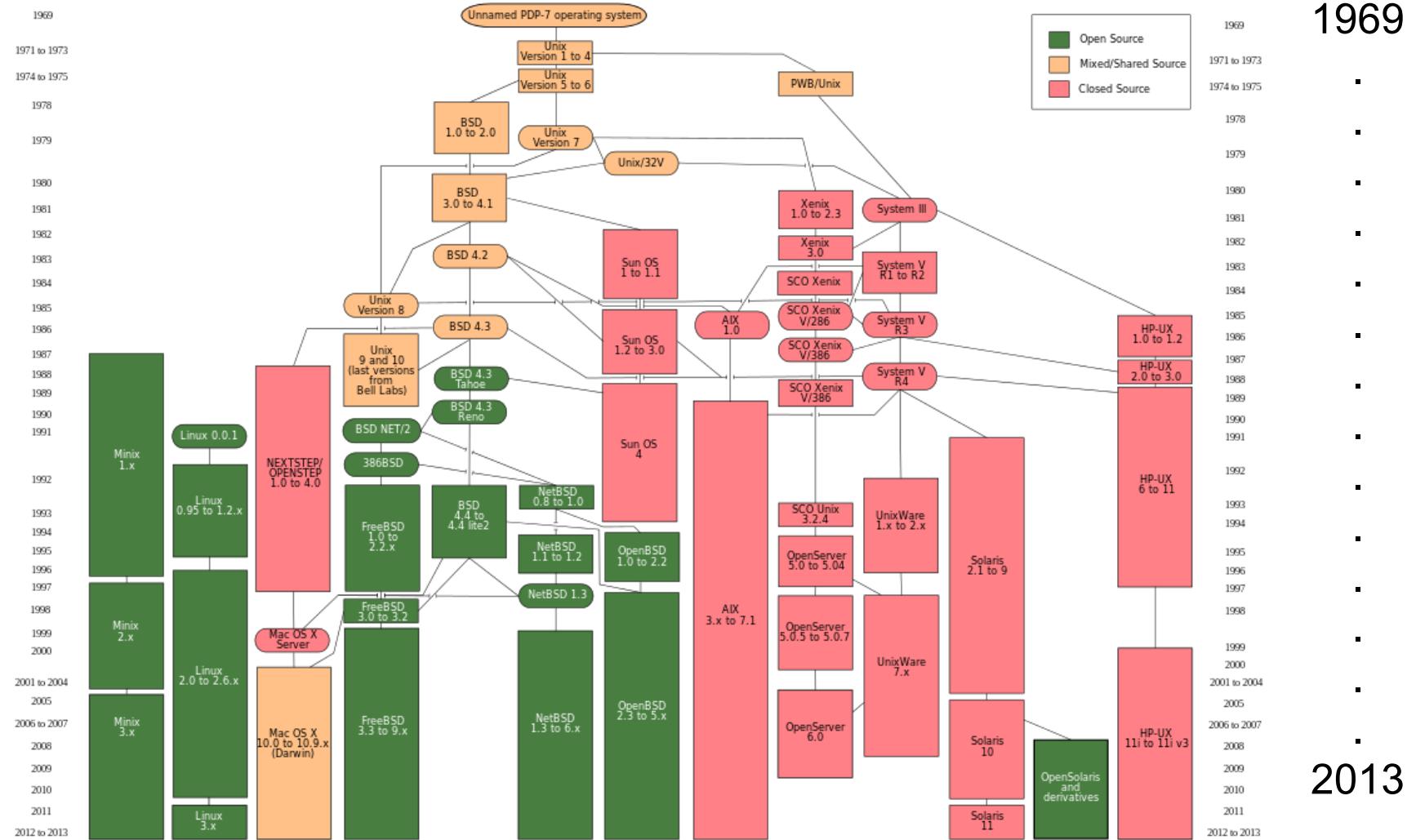
	UNIX	Linux	macOS	Windows <10	Windows 10
Started	1969	1991	1987	1993 (1981)	1993 (1981)
Source code	Closed	Open	Mixed	Closed	Closed
Kernel	UNIX	Linux	Linux	Windows	Windows
Interface	CLI (GUI)	CLI, GUI	GUI (CLI)	GUI (DOS)	GUI (CLI, DOS)
64 bit	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Runs Linux commands	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (ubuntu on windows)
Protected memory	Yes (1969)	Yes (1991)	Yes (1987)	Yes (1993)	Yes (1993)
MS Office	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes



For more info: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison\\_of\\_operating\\_systems](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_operating_systems)

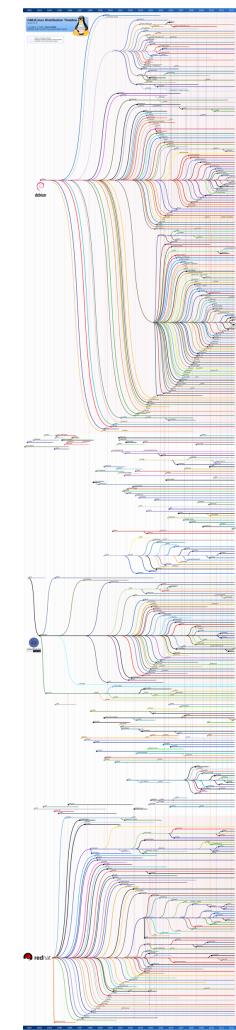
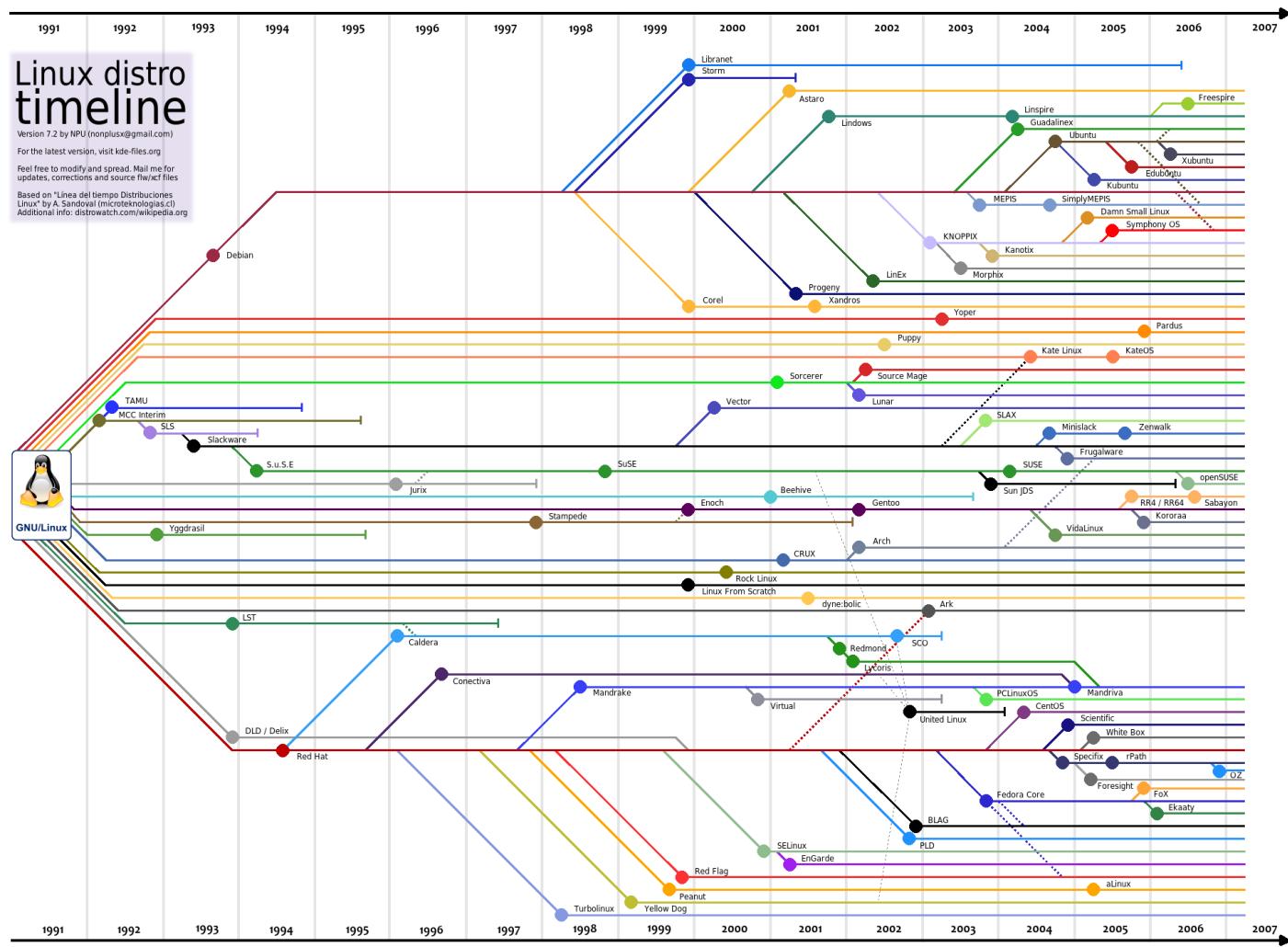
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# Introduction: Linux / macOS Timeline



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# Introduction: Linux Distributions



VIAD

# Interacting with Linux

(How do you get to the command line?)

# Interacting with Linux: File Manager / Browser by Operating System



OS: Windows

File Manager: Windows Explorer

macOS

Finder

Linux

Shell

# Interacting with Linux: Accessing the Shell

# Terminal (then)



# Terminal emulator (now)

```
[~/home]$ ls
vdirsrc
[~/home]$ cd ..
[~/]$ cd etc
[~/etc]$ ls
0.0.10.inetd.appra csh.cshrc gshadow- logrotate.d odbcinst.ini net
address.conf csh.login host.conf logcfg major openoffice rcp
inetd.conf csh.logout hostnames mailcap psm.conf screenrc security
aliases db.cache hosts mailname passwd.pwd security
alternatives debconf.conf hosts.allow mailname passwd services
apm debian_version hosts.allow hosts.conf passwd shadow
apt default hosts.conf mail.rc passwd.svc shell
apt-pkgrc debconf debconf.conf hosts.conf hosts.conf config svc
at_deny deluser.conf hotplug.d adache xpp
bakiungfu dhclient.conf identd.conf mediaprm printcap
bash_bashrc dhclient-script identd.key mine_types profile
bash_completion dictionaries-common identd.conf nntplib protocols
discoverd.conf init.d modprobe.d python2.5 ssh
discoverd.conf-2.6 inittab modprobe.d python2.5 sudoers
discoverd.d discoverd.d inittab modprobe.d python2.5 sudoers
bikid.tab dkpg iuptrc modules.conf rc0.d syslog.conf
bikid.tab.old emacs ikungfu modules.conf rc1.d syslog.conf
calendar issue netw modules rc2.d terminfo
cassandra issue.net netw modules rc3.d timezone
chrconfkit.conf issue_1_addresses netw-logging.conf modules rc4.d ucf
complete.tcsh environment idec modules.conf rc5.d updateconf.conf
console eximd idc_so.cache Nuttrc rc6.d videotool.hosts
console-tools fdmount.conf idc_so.conf mysel rc.d user
cron.d Fonts locale.alias namor rc5.d wgetrc
cron.hourly group locale.alias namor resolv.conf resolv.conf
cron_monthly group localtime networks resolvconf resolv.conf X11
cron_tab group logcheck nsswitch.conf resolv.conf resolv.conf xpiлот
cron_weekly gshadow logrotate.conf odbc.ini resolv.conf pppd-backup
```

“Terminal” (macOS; a particular terminal emulator)

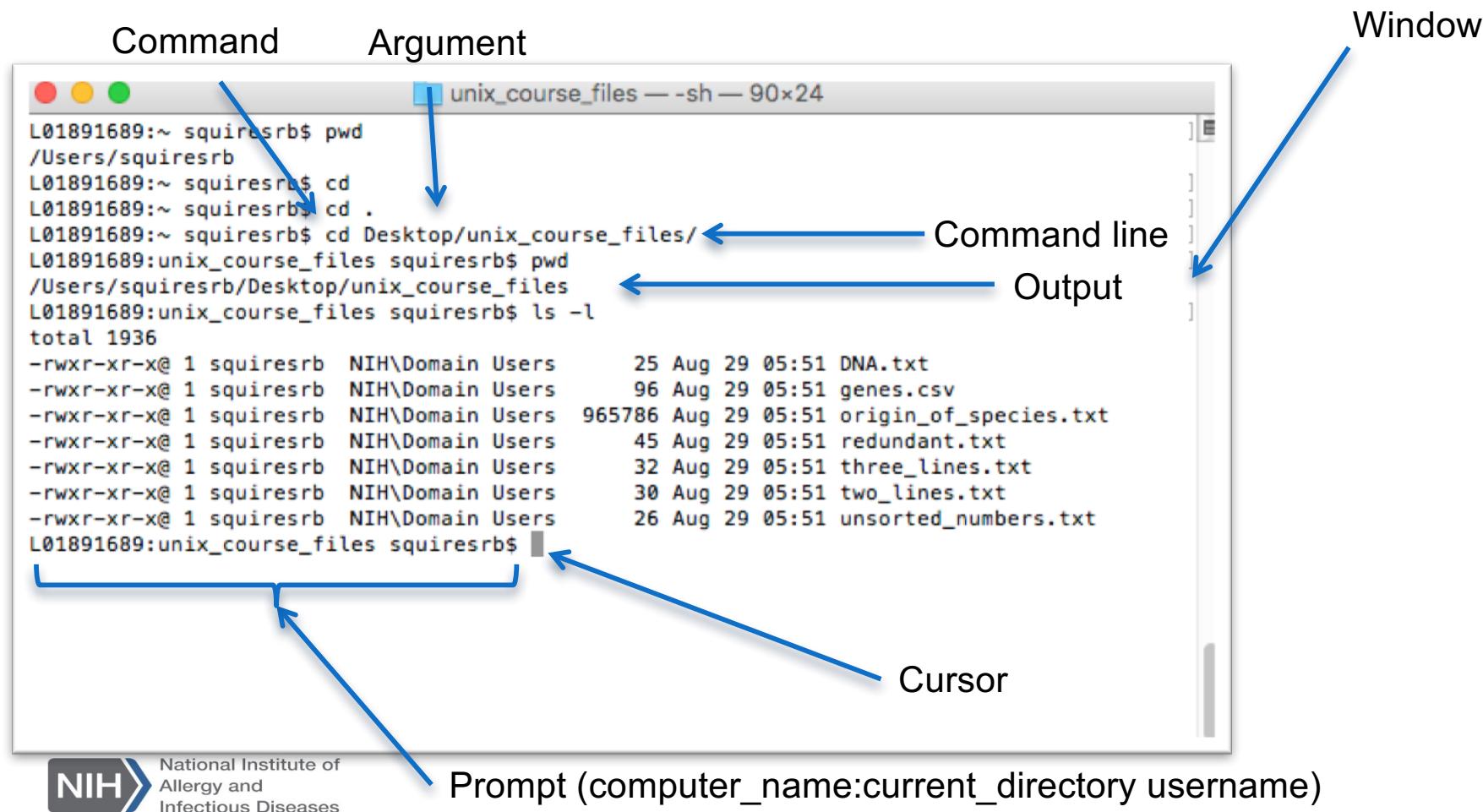


# Interacting with Linux: Accessing the Shell

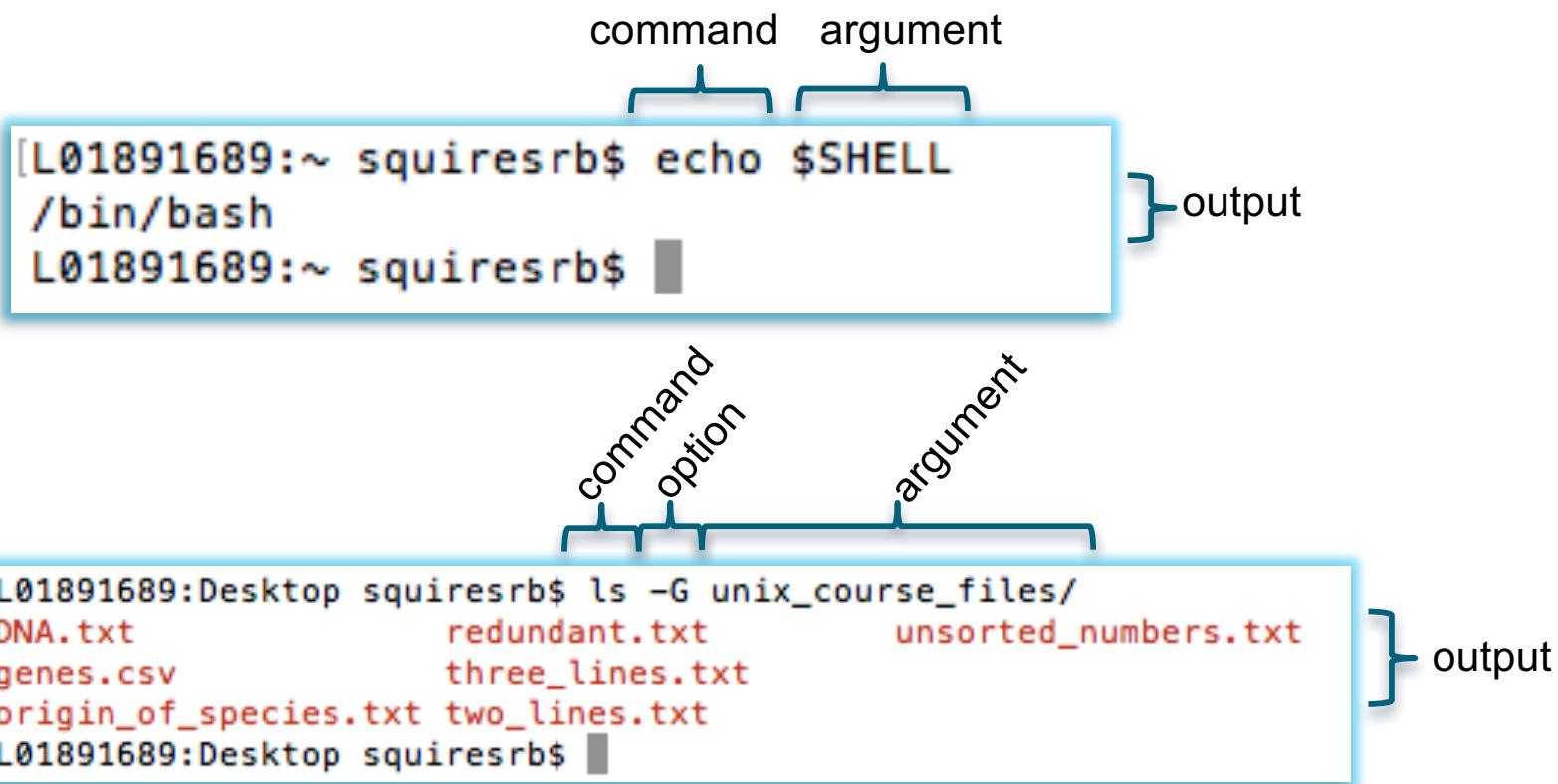
- We use a terminal emulator to access the shell, and other Linux programs
- Mac:
  - Applications => Utilities => Terminal
- Windows:
  - Download PuTTY
  - <http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/>



# Interacting with Linux: Anatomy of the Terminal, “Command Line”, or “Shell”



# How to execute a command



# Help!

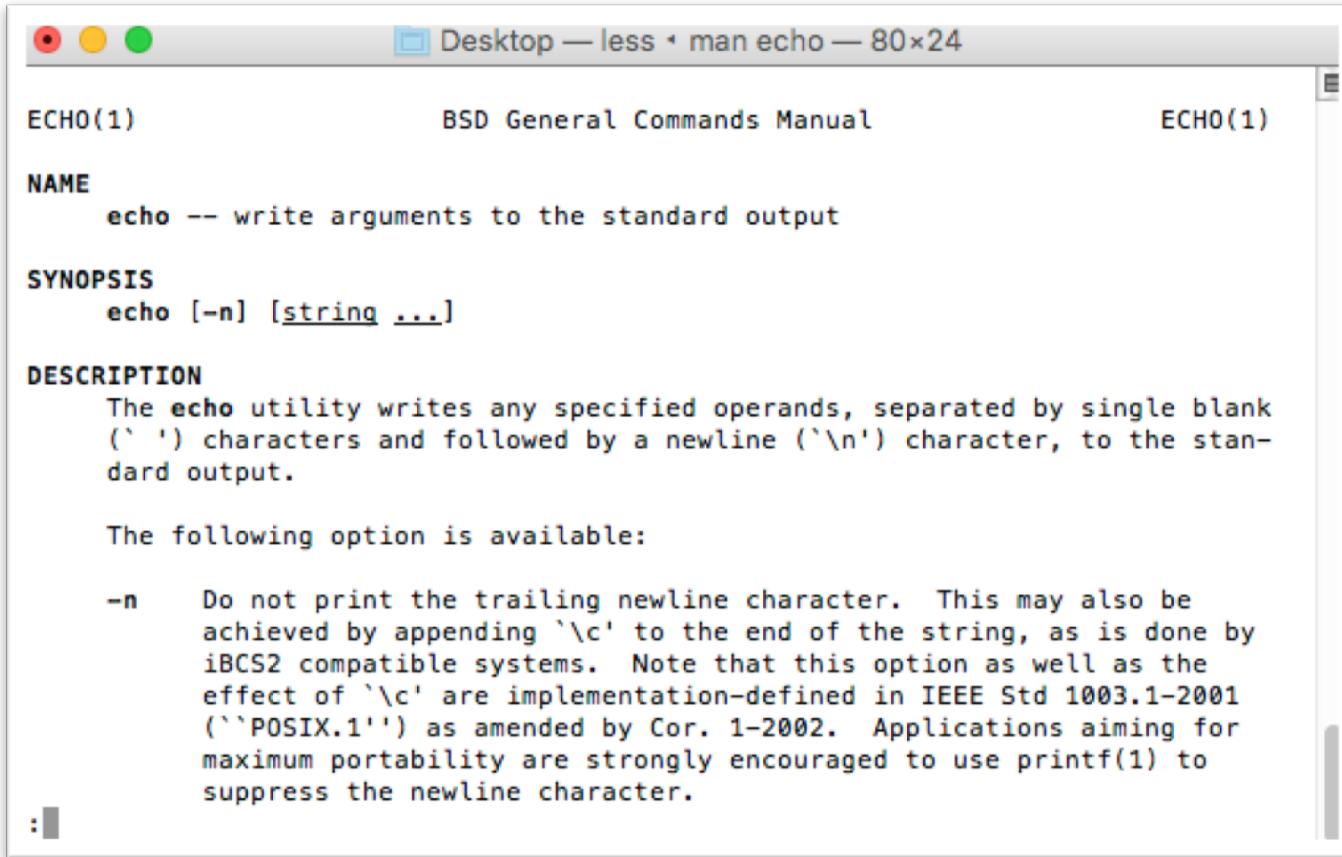
- Whenever you need help with a command type “man” and the command name

# Help!



```
L01891689:Desktop squiresrb$ man
What manual page do you want?
L01891689:Desktop squiresrb$ man echo
```

# Help!



Desktop — less + man echo — 80x24

ECHO(1) BSD General Commands Manual ECHO(1)

**NAME**  
echo -- write arguments to the standard output

**SYNOPSIS**  
echo [-n] [string ...]

**DESCRIPTION**  
The echo utility writes any specified operands, separated by single blank (' ') characters and followed by a newline ('\n') character, to the standard output.

The following option is available:

**-n** Do not print the trailing newline character. This may also be achieved by appending '\c' to the end of the string, as is done by iBCS2 compatible systems. Note that this option as well as the effect of '\c' are implementation-defined in IEEE Std 1003.1-2001 (''POSIX.1'') as amended by Cor. 1-2002. Applications aiming for maximum portability are strongly encouraged to use printf(1) to suppress the newline character.

# What is the “shell”?

- After logging in, Linux starts another program called the shell
- The shell interprets commands the user types and manages their execution
  - The shell communicates with the internal part of the operating system called the kernel
  - The most popular shells are: tcsh, csh, korn, and bash
  - The differences are most times subtle
  - For this tutorial, we are using bash
- Shell commands are **CASE SENSITIVE!**

# Tips To Make Life Easier!

## Speed

- Tab completion: hit Tab to make computer guess your filename.
  - type: ls unix[Tab]
  - result: ls unix\_course\_files
- If nothing happens on the first tab, press tab again...
- Aliases (put in ~/.bashrc file)
  - alias ls='ls -AFG'
  - alias ll='ls -lrhT'

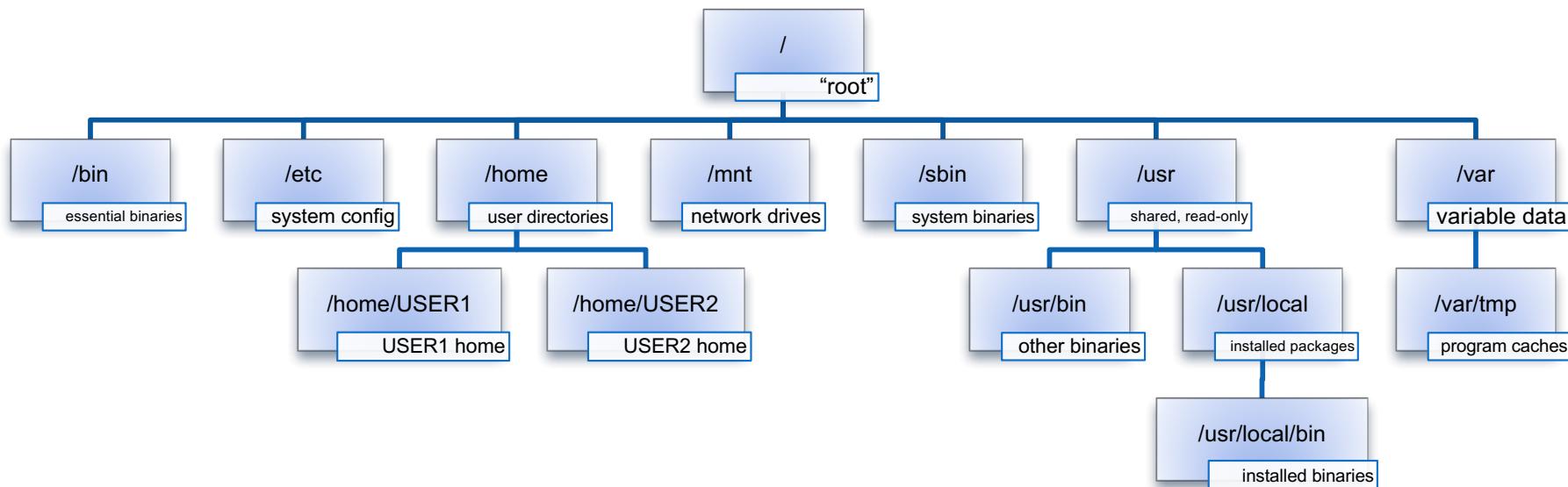
## Movement

- Up Arrow
  - Recalls previous command(s)
- history
  - show every command issued during the session
- !ls
  - repeat the previous “ls” command
- !!
  - repeat the previous command
- Ctrl+a
  - go to beginning of line
- Ctrl+e
  - go to end of line
- Ctrl+c
  - kill current running process in terminal

# Navigating with the Shell

# Navigation: Typical Linux Directory Structure

**pwd** “print working directory”; tells where you are



## Command: pwd

To find your “print working directory” use “pwd”

Note: we are “printing” the information to the screen ☺



A screenshot of a terminal window titled "Desktop — bash — 80x24". The window shows the command "pwd" being run and its output "/Users/squiresrb/Desktop". The window has standard OS X-style window controls (red, yellow, green) and scroll bars.

```
L01891689:Desktop squiresrb$ pwd
/Users/squiresrb/Desktop
L01891689:Desktop squiresrb$
```

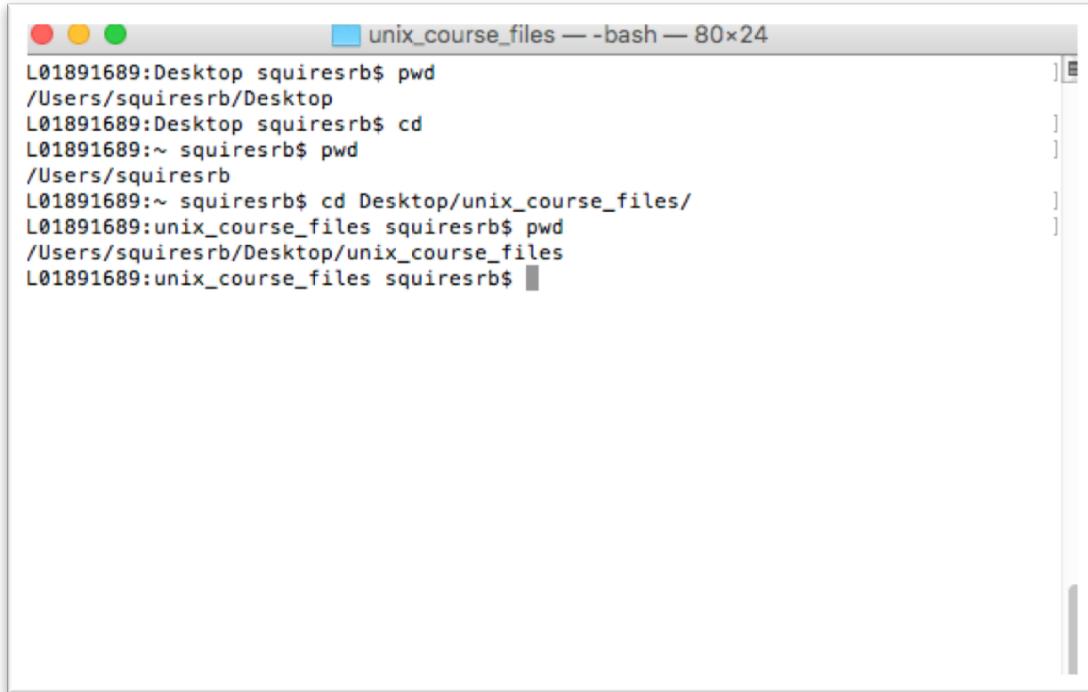
## Command: `cd`

To “change directory” type:  
“`cd`”

To go to home directory:  
“`cd ~`”  
“`cd`”

To go to parent directory:  
“`cd ..`”

Note: “..” is a shortcut to the  
parent directory



```
L01891689:Desktop squiresrb$ pwd
/Users/squiresrb/Desktop
L01891689:Desktop squiresrb$ cd
L01891689:~ squiresrb$ pwd
/Users/squiresrb
L01891689:~ squiresrb$ cd Desktop/unix_course_files/
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ pwd
/Users/squiresrb/Desktop/unix_course_files
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$
```

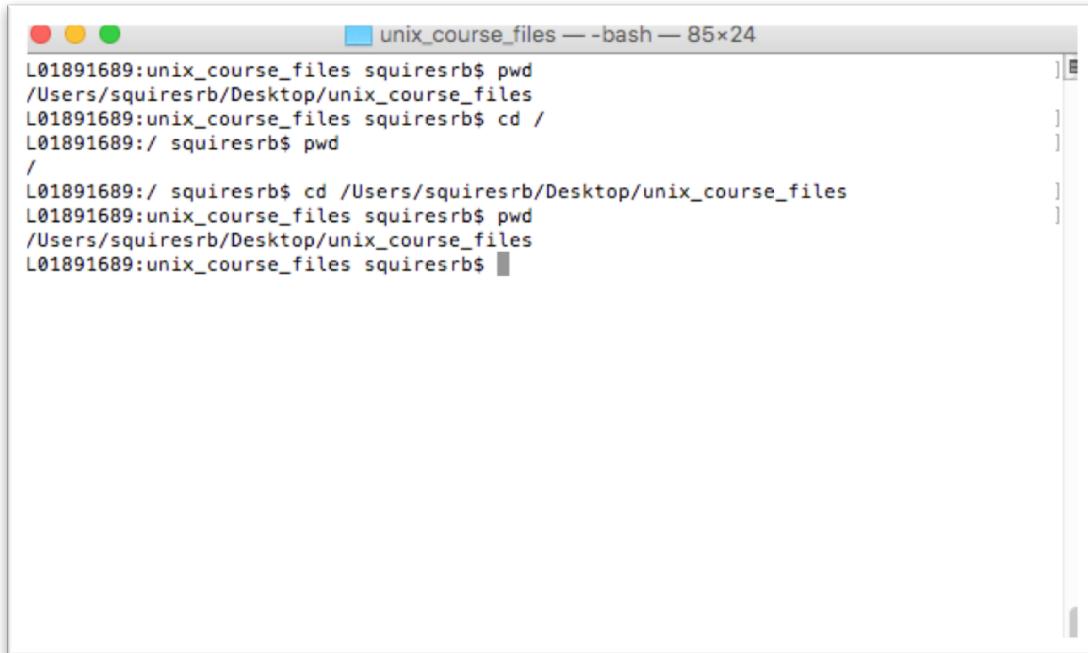
## Paths: Relative vs Absolute

Relative paths:

- “.” current directory
- “..” parent directory
- “./unix\_course\_files”  
directory “output” within  
current directory

To go to specific directory:

- “cd /users/squiresrb/”
- “cd  
/users/squiresrb/Desktop/uni  
x\_course\_files/”



```
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ pwd
/Users/squiresrb/Desktop/unix_course_files
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ cd /
L01891689:/ squiresrb$ pwd
/
L01891689:/ squiresrb$ cd /Users/squiresrb/Desktop/unix_course_files
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ pwd
/Users/squiresrb/Desktop/unix_course_files
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$
```

# Working with Directories

## Command: ls

To “list” the files in the current directory use

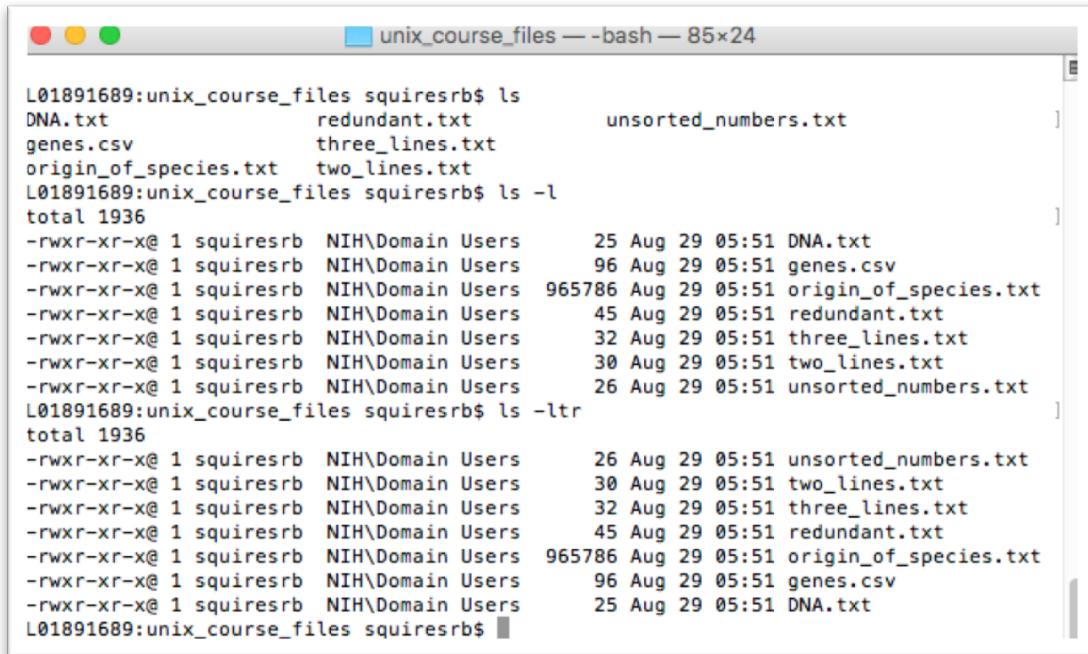
“ls”

ls has many options

- l long list (displays lots of info)
- t sort by modification time
- S sort by size
- h list file sizes in human readable format
- r reverse the order

“man ls” for more options

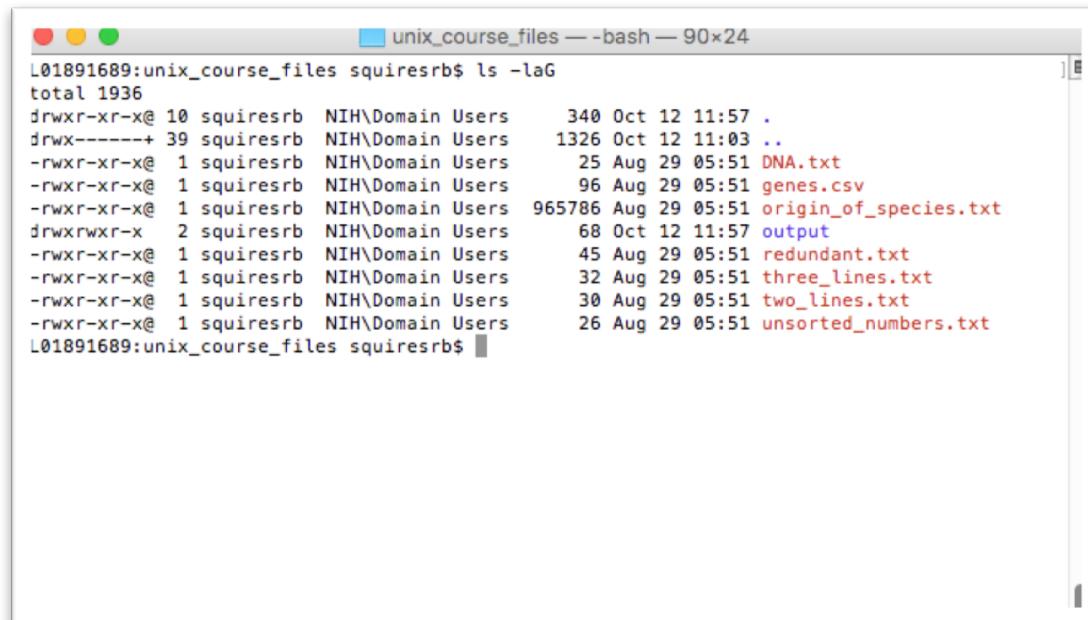
Options can be combined: “ls -ltr”



```
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls
DNA.txt          redundant.txt      unsorted_numbers.txt
genes.csv        three_lines.txt
origin_of_species.txt two_lines.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -l
total 1936
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb  NIH\Domain Users    25 Aug 29 05:51 DNA.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb  NIH\Domain Users    96 Aug 29 05:51 genes.csv
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb  NIH\Domain Users  965786 Aug 29 05:51 origin_of_species.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb  NIH\Domain Users    45 Aug 29 05:51 redundant.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb  NIH\Domain Users    32 Aug 29 05:51 three_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb  NIH\Domain Users    30 Aug 29 05:51 two_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb  NIH\Domain Users    26 Aug 29 05:51 unsorted_numbers.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -ltr
total 1936
-rwrxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb  NIH\Domain Users    26 Aug 29 05:51 unsorted_numbers.txt
-rwrxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb  NIH\Domain Users    30 Aug 29 05:51 two_lines.txt
-rwrxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb  NIH\Domain Users    32 Aug 29 05:51 three_lines.txt
-rwrxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb  NIH\Domain Users    45 Aug 29 05:51 redundant.txt
-rwrxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb  NIH\Domain Users  965786 Aug 29 05:51 origin_of_species.txt
-rwrxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb  NIH\Domain Users    96 Aug 29 05:51 genes.csv
-rwrxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb  NIH\Domain Users    25 Aug 29 05:51 DNA.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$
```

## Listed Columns

1. File type (d[irectory], - [file], l[ink]) and the permission given on the file
2. Number of memory blocks taken by the file or directory.
3. Owner of the file. This is the Unix user who created this file.
4. Group of the owner. Every Unix user will have an associated group.
5. File size in bytes.
6. Date and the time when this file was created or modified for the last time.
7. File or the directory name.



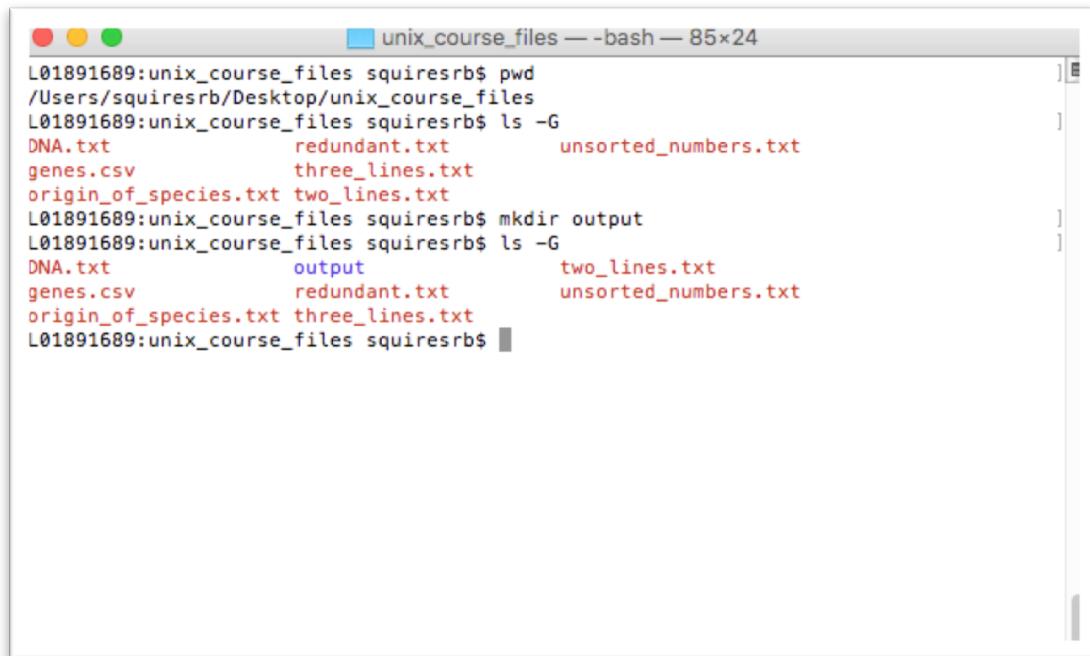
The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "unix\_course\_files — bash — 90x24". The command "ls -laG" is run, displaying a detailed listing of files and directories. The output includes:

```
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -laG
total 1936
drwxr-xr-x@ 10 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    340 Oct 12 11:57 .
drwx-----+ 39 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users   1326 Oct 12 11:03 ..
-rw xr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    25 Aug 29 05:51 DNA.txt
-rw xr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    96 Aug 29 05:51 genes.csv
-rw xr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users  965786 Aug 29 05:51 origin_of_species.txt
drwxrwxr-x  2 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users     68 Oct 12 11:57 output
-rw xr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    45 Aug 29 05:51 redundant.txt
-rw xr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    32 Aug 29 05:51 three_lines.txt
-rw xr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    30 Aug 29 05:51 two_lines.txt
-rw xr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users   26 Aug 29 05:51 unsorted_numbers.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$
```

## Command: **mkdir**

To create a new directory or  
"make directory" use "mkdir"

(Notice we use the –G  
option to "ls" to show  
directories in a different  
color (blue))

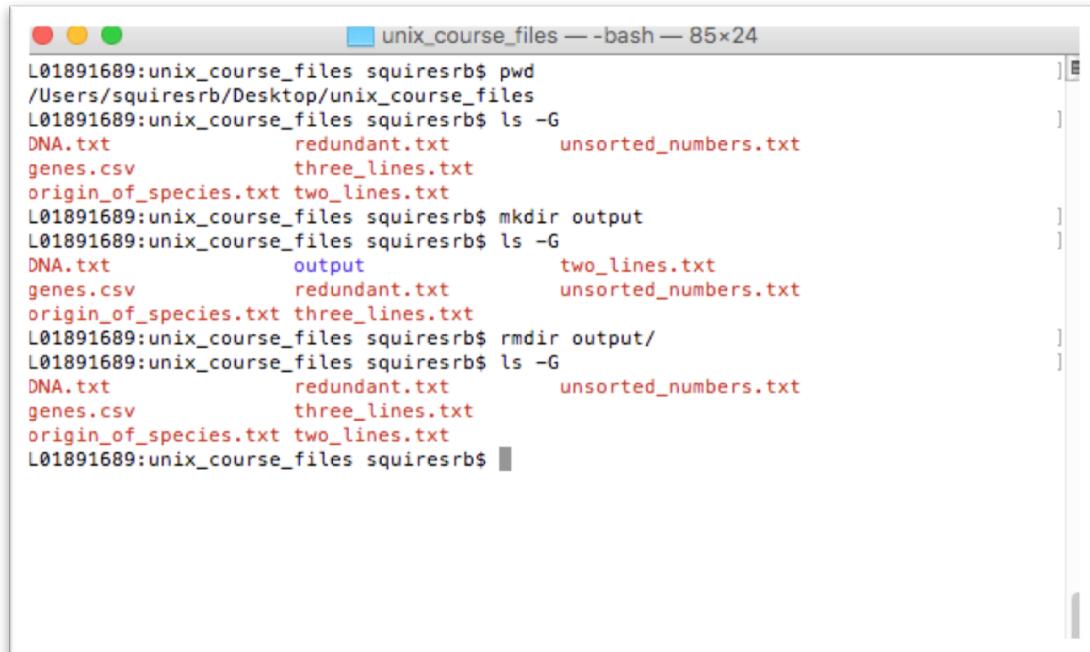


The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "unix\_course\_files — bash — 85x24". The user is in their home directory: "/Users/squiresrb/Desktop/unix\_course\_files". They first run "pwd" to show the current path. Then they run "ls -G" to list files, where directories are shown in blue. They then run "mkdir output" to create a new directory. Finally, they run "ls -G" again to show that the "output" directory has been created.

```
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ pwd
/Users/squiresrb/Desktop/unix_course_files
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -G
DNA.txt          redundant.txt      unsorted_numbers.txt
genes.csv        three_lines.txt
origin_of_species.txt two_lines.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ mkdir output
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -G
DNA.txt          output           two_lines.txt
genes.csv        redundant.txt   unsorted_numbers.txt
origin_of_species.txt three_lines.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$
```

## Command: **rmdir**

To “remove directory”  
and empty directory use  
“rmdir”

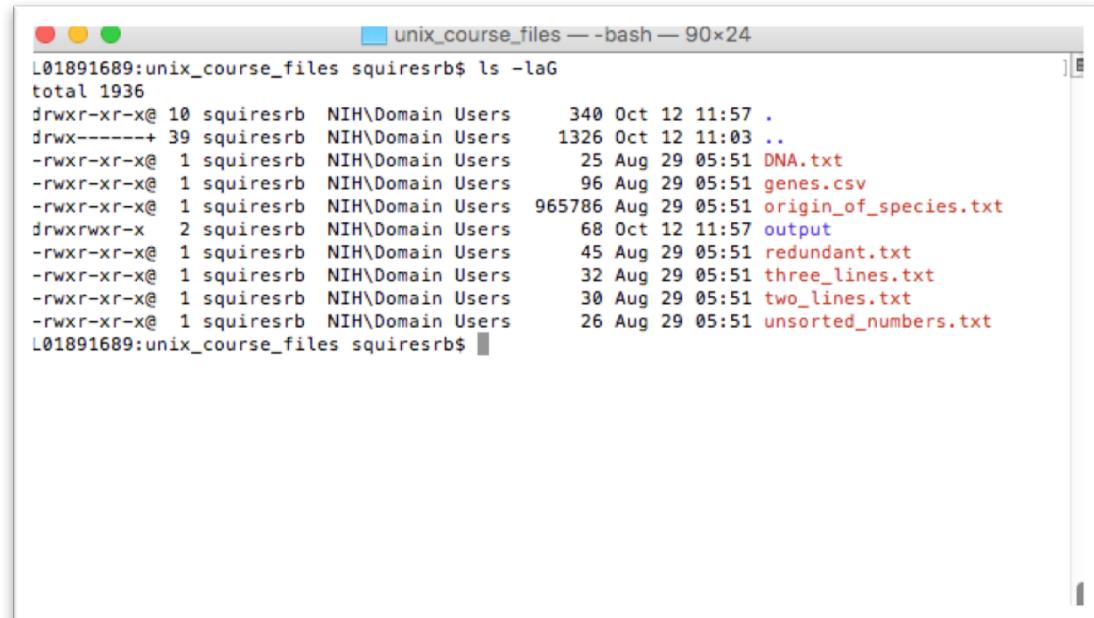


```
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ pwd
/Users/squiresrb/Desktop/unix_course_files
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -G
DNA.txt          redundant.txt      unsorted_numbers.txt
genes.csv        three_lines.txt
origin_of_species.txt two_lines.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ mkdir output
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -G
DNA.txt          output          two_lines.txt
genes.csv        redundant.txt    unsorted_numbers.txt
origin_of_species.txt three_lines.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ rmdir output/
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -G
DNA.txt          redundant.txt      unsorted_numbers.txt
genes.csv        three_lines.txt
origin_of_species.txt two_lines.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$
```

# Working with Files

## Command: ls

We already saw how we can list or “ls” the files in a directory.



The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "unix\_course\_files — bash — 90x24". The command entered is "ls -laG". The output lists 1936 files in a long-form listing format, showing permissions, file size, modification date, and name. The files include "DNA.txt", "genes.csv", "origin\_of\_species.txt", "output", "redundant.txt", "three\_lines.txt", "two\_lines.txt", and "unsorted\_numbers.txt". The terminal window has a standard OS X look with red, yellow, and green close buttons at the top left.

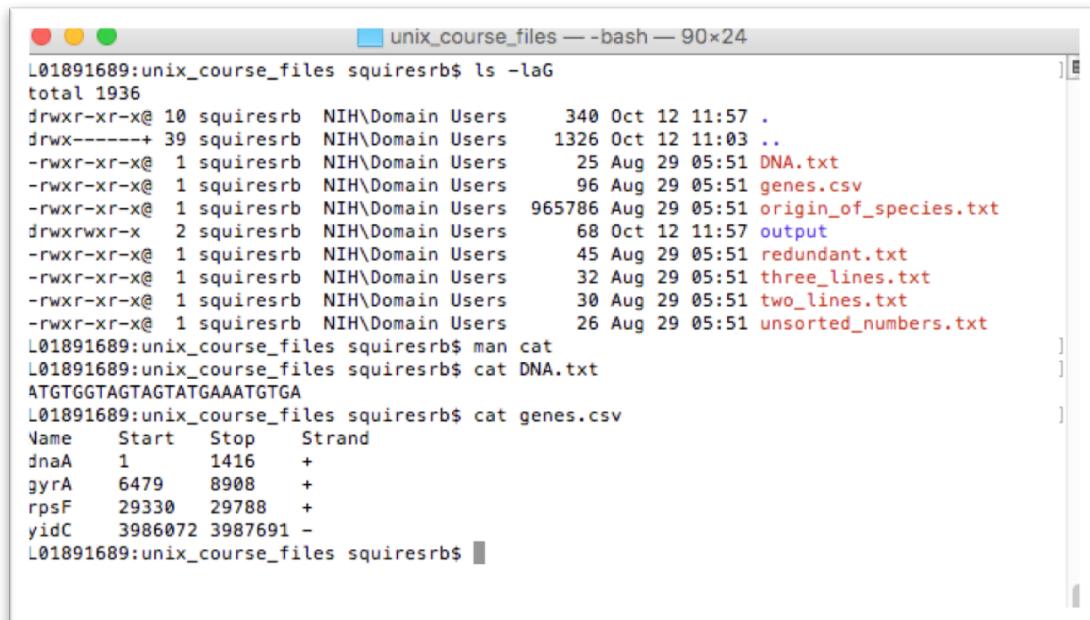
```
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -laG
total 1936
drwxr-xr-x@ 10 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    340 Oct 12 11:57 .
drwx-----+ 39 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users   1326 Oct 12 11:03 ..
-rw xr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    25 Aug 29 05:51 DNA.txt
-rw xr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    96 Aug 29 05:51 genes.csv
-rw xr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users  965786 Aug 29 05:51 origin_of_species.txt
drwxrwxr-x  2 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users     68 Oct 12 11:57 output
-rw xr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    45 Aug 29 05:51 redundant.txt
-rw xr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    32 Aug 29 05:51 three_lines.txt
-rw xr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    30 Aug 29 05:51 two_lines.txt
-rw xr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users   26 Aug 29 05:51 unsorted_numbers.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$
```

## Command: cat

To view or “concatenate and print” data use cat.

Dumps an entire file to standard output

Good for displaying short, simple files



The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "unix\_course\_files — bash — 90x24". The user has run several commands:

- "ls -laG" lists the directory contents, showing files like DNA.txt, genes.csv, origin\_of\_species.txt, output, redundant.txt, three\_lines.txt, two\_lines.txt, and unsorted\_numbers.txt.
- "man cat" displays the man page for the cat command.
- "cat DNA.txt" displays the contents of the DNA.txt file, which is a sequence of DNA bases: ATGTGGTAGTAGTATGAAATGTGA.
- "cat genes.csv" displays the contents of the genes.csv file, which is a table with columns Name, Start, Stop, and Strand, containing entries for dnaA, gyrA, rpsF, and yidC.

## Command: less

Shows “less” then the entire file that “cat” does, allowing forward / backward movement within it

- “return” scrolls forward one line at a time
- “space” advances one page at a time
- “y” scrolls back one line, b one page
- use “/” to search for a string
- Press “q” to quit

```
unix_course_files — bash — 90x24
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -l
total 1936
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 25 Aug 29 05:51 DNA.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 96 Aug 29 05:51 genes.csv
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 965786 Aug 29 05:51 origin_of_species.txt
drwxrwxr-x 2 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 68 Oct 12 11:57 output
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 45 Aug 29 05:51 redundant.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 32 Aug 29 05:51 three_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 30 Aug 29 05:51 two_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 26 Aug 29 05:51 unsorted_numbers.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ less origin_of_species.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$
```

```
unix_course_files — less origin_of_species.txt — 90x24
E0+FEFF>The Project Gutenberg EBook of On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, by Charles Darwin

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Title: On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life. (2nd edition)

Author: Charles Darwin

Release Date: September 25, 2007 [EBook #22764]

Language: English

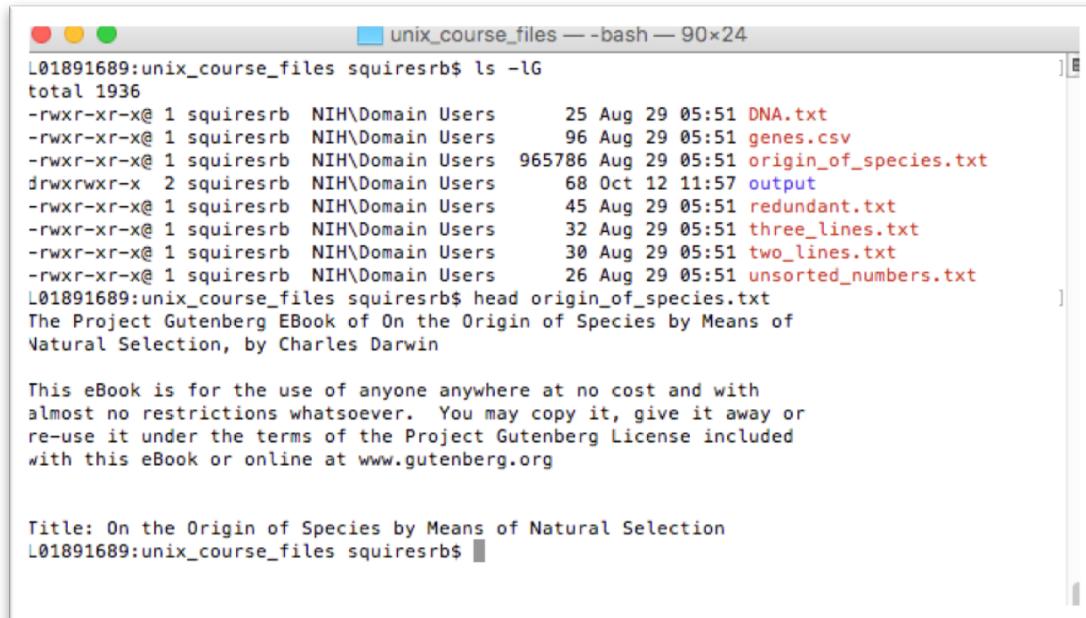
*** START OF THIS PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK ORIGIN OF SPECIES ***

origin_of_species.txt
```

## Command: head

“head” displays the top part of a file

- By default it shows the first 10 lines
- “n” option allows you to change the number of lines; “head –n 50 file.txt” displays the first 50 lines of file.txt



```
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -lg
total 1936
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      25 Aug 29 05:51 DNA.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      96 Aug 29 05:51 genes.csv
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users  965786 Aug 29 05:51 origin_of_species.txt
drwxrwxr-x  2 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      68 Oct 12 11:57 output
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      45 Aug 29 05:51 redundant.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      32 Aug 29 05:51 three_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      30 Aug 29 05:51 two_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      26 Aug 29 05:51 unsorted_numbers.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ head origin_of_species.txt
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Natural Selection, by Charles Darwin

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Title: On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$
```

## Command: tail

“tail” displays the top part of a file

- By default it shows the last 10 lines
- “n” option allows you to change the number of lines; “tail –n 50 file.txt” displays the last 50 lines of file.txt

```
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -lg
total 1936
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      25 Aug 29 05:51 DNA.txt
-rw-r--r--@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      96 Aug 29 05:51 genes.csv
-rw-r--r--@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users  965786 Aug 29 05:51 origin_of_species.txt
drwxrwxr-x@ 2 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      68 Oct 12 11:57 output
-rw-r--r-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      45 Aug 29 05:51 redundant.txt
-rw-r--r--@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      32 Aug 29 05:51 three_lines.txt
-rw-r--r-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      30 Aug 29 05:51 two_lines.txt
-rw-r--r-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      26 Aug 29 05:51 unsorted_numbers.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ tail origin_of_species.txt

Most people start at our Web site which has the main PG search facility:
http://www.gutenberg.org

This Web site includes information about Project Gutenberg-tm,
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Archive Foundation, how to help produce our new eBooks, and how to
subscribe to our email newsletter to hear about new eBooks.
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$
```

## Command: cp

To copy a file use “cp”

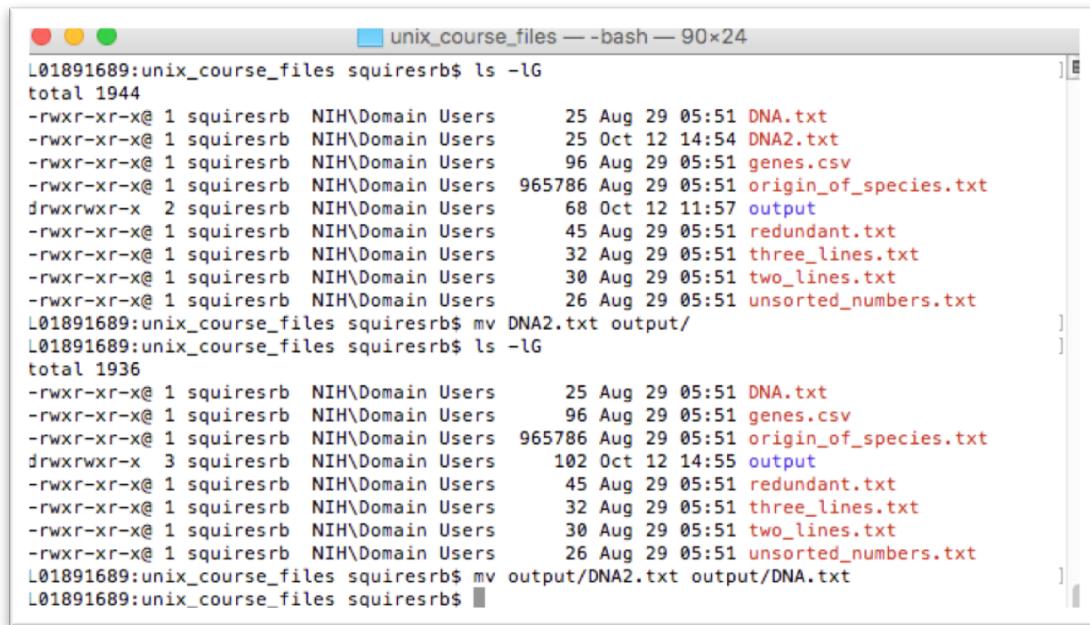
```
unix_course_files — bash — 90x24
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -lg
total 1936
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      25 Aug 29 05:51 DNA.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      96 Aug 29 05:51 genes.csv
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users  965786 Aug 29 05:51 origin_of_species.txt
drwxrwxr-x  2 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      68 Oct 12 11:57 output
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      45 Aug 29 05:51 redundant.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      32 Aug 29 05:51 three_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      30 Aug 29 05:51 two_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      26 Aug 29 05:51 unsorted_numbers.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ cp DNA.txt DNA2.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -lg
total 1944
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      25 Aug 29 05:51 DNA.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      25 Oct 12 14:54 DNA2.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      96 Aug 29 05:51 genes.csv
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users  965786 Aug 29 05:51 origin_of_species.txt
drwxrwxr-x  2 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      68 Oct 12 11:57 output
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      45 Aug 29 05:51 redundant.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      32 Aug 29 05:51 three_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      30 Aug 29 05:51 two_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users      26 Aug 29 05:51 unsorted_numbers.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$
```

## Command: mv

To move a file use “mv”

“mv” can also be used to rename a file:

- mv DNA2.txt DNA3.txt



The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "unix\_course\_files — bash — 90x24". The user has run the command "ls -lg" to list files. The output shows several files including DNA.txt, DNA2.txt, genes.csv, origin\_of\_species.txt, output, redundant.txt, three\_lines.txt, two\_lines.txt, and unsorted\_numbers.txt. The user then runs "mv DNA2.txt output". After this command, the user runs "ls -lg" again, and the output shows DNA.txt, genes.csv, origin\_of\_species.txt, output, redundant.txt, three\_lines.txt, two\_lines.txt, and unsorted\_numbers.txt. DNA2.txt is no longer listed, indicating it has been moved.

```
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -lg
total 1944
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 25 Aug 29 05:51 DNA.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 25 Oct 12 14:54 DNA2.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 96 Aug 29 05:51 genes.csv
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 965786 Aug 29 05:51 origin_of_species.txt
drwxrwxr-x 2 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 68 Oct 12 11:57 output
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 45 Aug 29 05:51 redundant.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 32 Aug 29 05:51 three_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 30 Aug 29 05:51 two_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 26 Aug 29 05:51 unsorted_numbers.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ mv DNA2.txt output
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -lg
total 1936
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 25 Aug 29 05:51 DNA.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 96 Aug 29 05:51 genes.csv
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 965786 Aug 29 05:51 origin_of_species.txt
drwxrwxr-x 3 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 102 Oct 12 14:55 output
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 45 Aug 29 05:51 redundant.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 32 Aug 29 05:51 three_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 30 Aug 29 05:51 two_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 26 Aug 29 05:51 unsorted_numbers.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ mv output/DNA2.txt output/DNA.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$
```

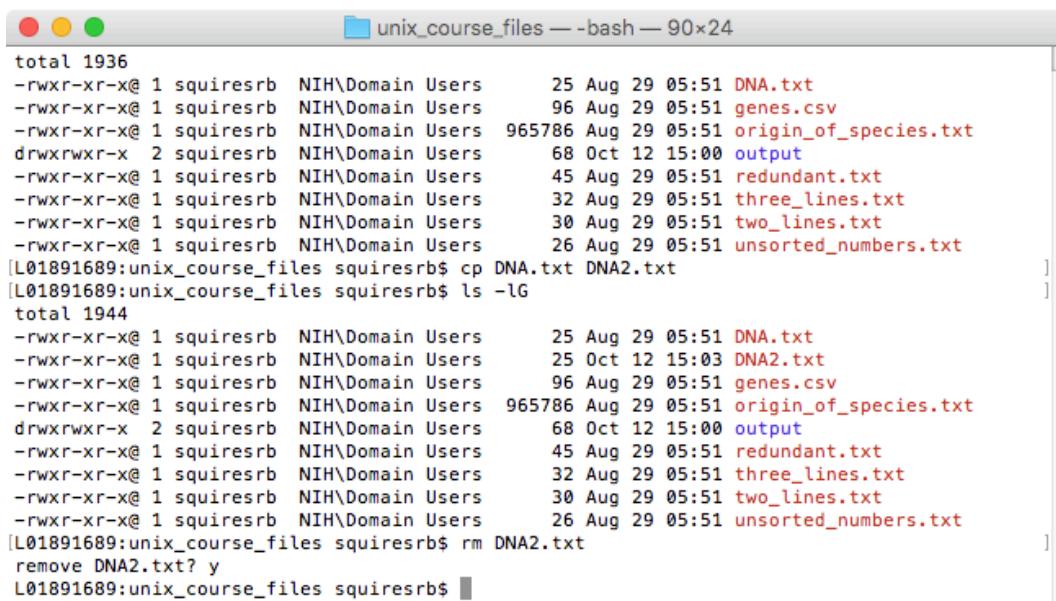
## Command: rm

To remove a file use “rm”

To remove a file  
“recursively”: rm –r

Used to remove all files and  
directories

Be very careful, deletions  
are permanent in Linux



The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "unix\_course\_files — -bash — 90x24". The window displays a list of files in a directory. The user runs the command "cp DNA.txt DNA2.txt" followed by "ls -lg" to show the current state. Then, the user runs "rm DNA2.txt" and is prompted to confirm the deletion with "remove DNA2.txt? y". The terminal window has a standard OS X style with red, yellow, and green close buttons.

```
total 1936
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 25 Aug 29 05:51 DNA.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 96 Aug 29 05:51 genes.csv
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 965786 Aug 29 05:51 origin_of_species.txt
drwxrwxr-x 2 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 68 Oct 12 15:00 output
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 45 Aug 29 05:51 redundant.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 32 Aug 29 05:51 three_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 30 Aug 29 05:51 two_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 26 Aug 29 05:51 unsorted_numbers.txt
[L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ cp DNA.txt DNA2.txt
[L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -lg
total 1944
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 25 Aug 29 05:51 DNA.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 25 Oct 12 15:03 DNA2.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 96 Aug 29 05:51 genes.csv
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 965786 Aug 29 05:51 origin_of_species.txt
drwxrwxr-x 2 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 68 Oct 12 15:00 output
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 45 Aug 29 05:51 redundant.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 32 Aug 29 05:51 three_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 30 Aug 29 05:51 two_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users 26 Aug 29 05:51 unsorted_numbers.txt
[L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ rm DNA2.txt
remove DNA2.txt? y
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ]
```

# Working with Files: Creating Files in Linux

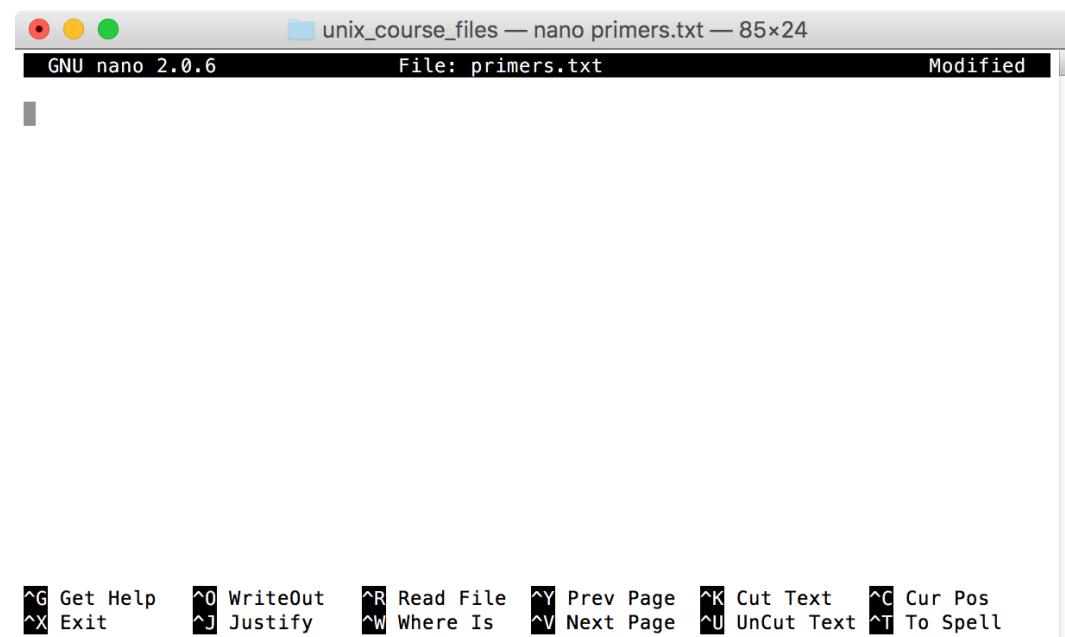
- Requires the use of an Editor
  - Do not use:
  - Microsoft Word
  - WordPad
  - TextEdit (unless you set to plaintext)
- Various Editors:
  - nano / pico
  - vi
  - emacs

## Editing A File Using pico or nano

Type “pico” or “nano” at the prompt

Caret or up arrow is the control key

Control X to exit. Remember to save



# Editing A File Using nano

To save use “ctrl-x”



# File Permissions

- Each file in Linux has an associated permission level
- This allows the user to prevent others from reading/writing/executing their files or directories
- Use “ls -l *filename*” to find the permission level of that file

# Permission levels

- “r” means “read only” permission
- “w” means “write” permission
- “x” means “execute” permission
  - In case of directory, “x” grants permission to list directory contents

# File Permissions

```
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -lg
```

```
total 1944
```

-rwxr-xr-x@ 1	squiresrb	NIH\Domain Users	25 Aug 29	05:51	DNA.txt	
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1	squiresrb	NIH\Domain Users	25 Oct 12	15:03	DNA2.tx	
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1	squiresrb	NIH\Domain Users	96 Aug 29	05:51	genes.c	
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1	squiresrb	NIH\Domain Users	965786 Aug 29	05:51	origin_	
drwxrwxr-x 2	squiresrb	NIH\Domain Users	68 Oct 12	15:00	output	
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1	squiresrb	NIH\Domain Users	45 Aug 29	05:51	redunda	
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1	squiresrb	NIH\Domain Users	32 Aug 29	05:51	three_l	
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1	squiresrb	NIH\Domain Users	30 Aug 29	05:51	two_lin	
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1	squiresrb	NIH\Domain Users	26 Aug 29	05:51	unsorte	

User (you)

Group

Everyone

## Command: chmod

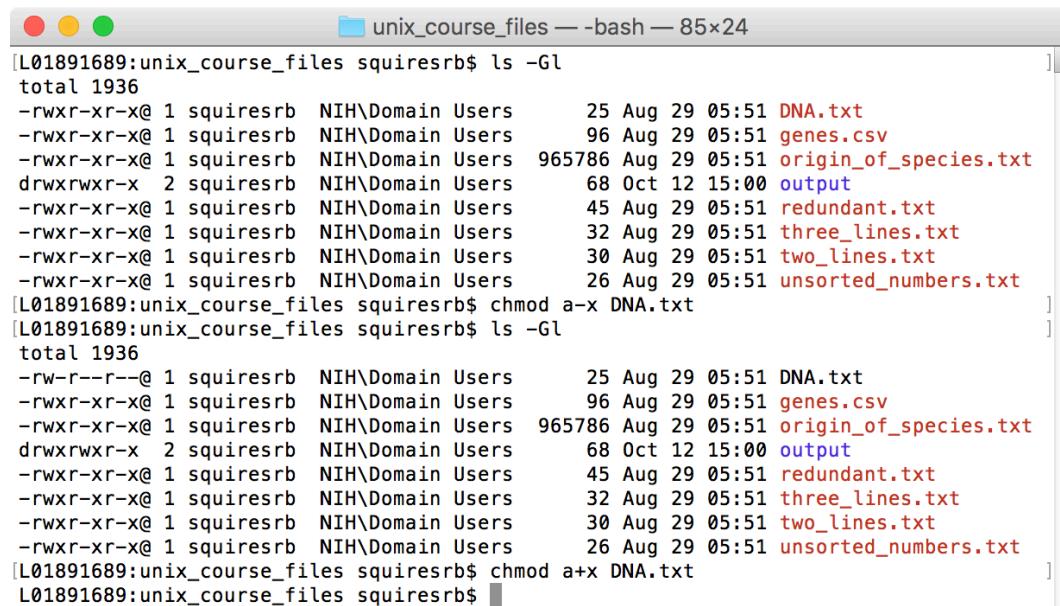
“change mode”

If you own the file, you can change it's permissions with “chmod”

Syntax: chmod  
[user/group/others/all]+[permission] [file(s)]

To grant execute permission to all type:

chmod a+x DNA.txt



The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "unix\_course\_files — bash — 85x24". It displays a list of files with their permissions, last modified date, and names. The user "squiresrb" runs three commands: "ls -Gl" to show the initial state, "chmod a-x DNA.txt" to change the permissions of "DNA.txt" to "a-x", and another "ls -Gl" to show the updated permissions. The permissions for "DNA.txt" are changed from "rwxr-xr-x" to "rw-r--r--". Other files like "genes.csv", "origin\_of\_species.txt", "output", "redundant.txt", "three\_lines.txt", "two\_lines.txt", and "unsorted\_numbers.txt" remain with their original permissions.

```
[L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -Gl
total 1936
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    25 Aug 29 05:51 DNA.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    96 Aug 29 05:51 genes.csv
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users  965786 Aug 29 05:51 origin_of_species.txt
drwxrwxr-x  2 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    68 Oct 12 15:00 output
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    45 Aug 29 05:51 redundant.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    32 Aug 29 05:51 three_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    30 Aug 29 05:51 two_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    26 Aug 29 05:51 unsorted_numbers.txt
[L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ chmod a-x DNA.txt
[L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ls -Gl
total 1936
-rw-r--r--@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    25 Aug 29 05:51 DNA.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    96 Aug 29 05:51 genes.csv
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users  965786 Aug 29 05:51 origin_of_species.txt
drwxrwxr-x  2 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    68 Oct 12 15:00 output
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    45 Aug 29 05:51 redundant.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    32 Aug 29 05:51 three_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    30 Aug 29 05:51 two_lines.txt
-rwxr-xr-x@ 1 squiresrb NIH\Domain Users    26 Aug 29 05:51 unsorted_numbers.txt
[L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ chmod a+x DNA.txt
L01891689:unix_course_files squiresrb$ ]]
```

# Useful Unix Programs

## Commands: **sort**

**sort genes.csv**

alphabetize “genes.csv”

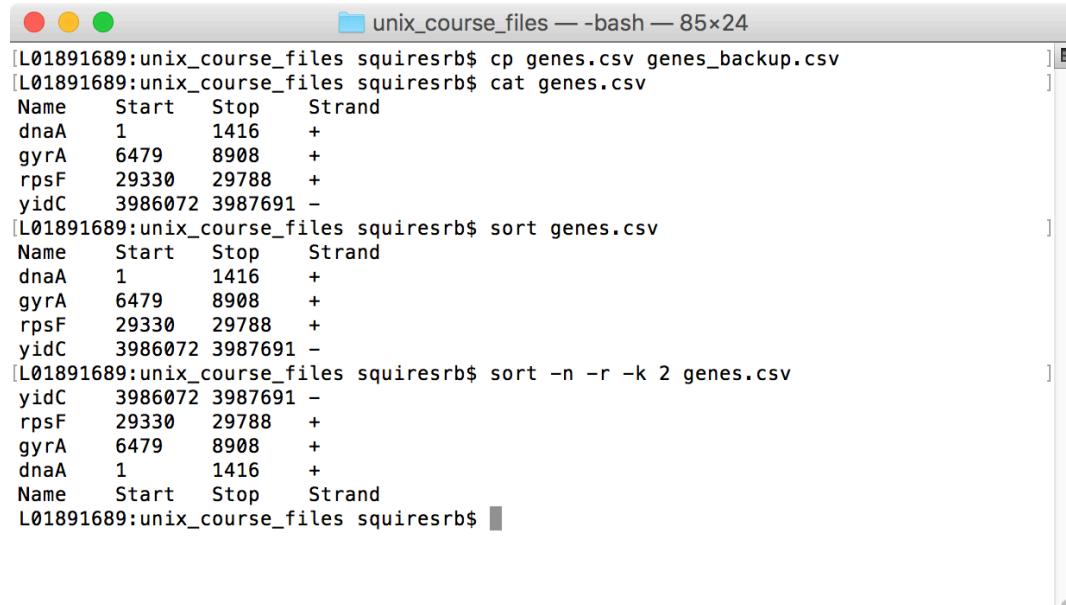
**sort -n genes.csv**

sort “file1” by number

**sort -n -r -k 2**

**genes.csv**

sort “file1” by the second  
word or column in reverse  
numerical order



The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "unix\_course\_files — bash — 85x24". The user has copied a file named "genes.csv" to "genes\_backup.csv" and then used the "cat" command to view its contents. The data is as follows:

Name	Start	Stop	Strand
dnaA	1	1416	+
gyrA	6479	8908	+
rpsF	29330	29788	+
yidC	3986072	3987691	-

Next, the user runs the "sort" command on "genes.csv". The output is identical to the input, showing the same data rows. Finally, the user runs "sort -n -r -k 2 genes.csv", which sorts the data by the second column (Stop) in reverse numerical order. The resulting output is:

Name	Start	Stop	Strand
yidC	3986072	3987691	-
rpsF	29330	29788	+
gyrA	6479	8908	+
dnaA	1	1416	+

# Command: diff

- To compare two files for differences use “diff”
  - Try: diff /dev/null hello.txt
  - /dev/null is a special address -- it is always empty, and anything moved there is deleted

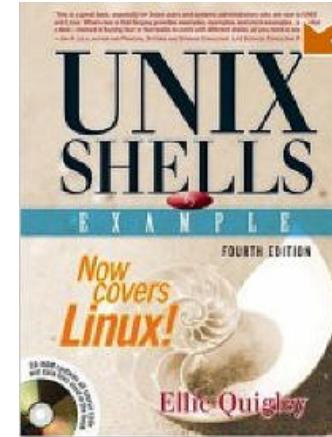
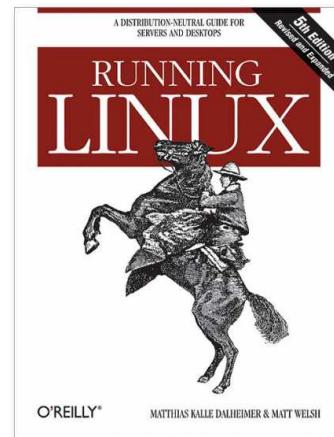
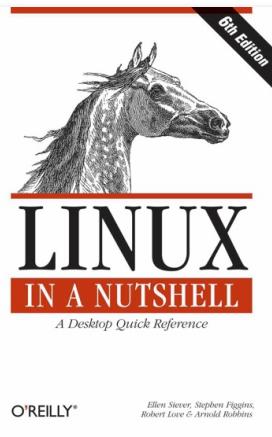
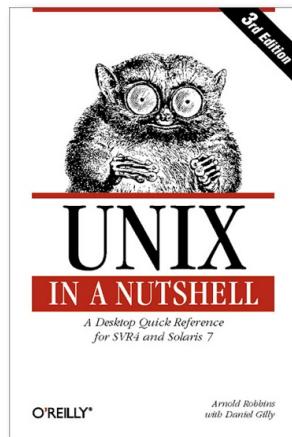
# Basic Linux Commands: grep (search within files)

- ***g/re/p*** (*globally search a regular expression and print*)
- **grep key file\*** report the file name and line where “key” appears in file\*
- **grep -v key file\*** report the file names of files that do not match “key”
- **man grep** see other functions of grep. (lots! regular expressions!)

# Linux Web Resources

- <https://www.tutorialspoint.com/unix/>
- <http://www.ee.surrey.ac.uk/Teaching/Linux/>
- <http://www.ugu.com/sui/ugu/show?help.beginners>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linux>

# Recommended Reading



## Linux in a Nutshell, Sixth Edition

Ellen Siever, Stephen Figgins,  
Robert Love, Arnold Robbins

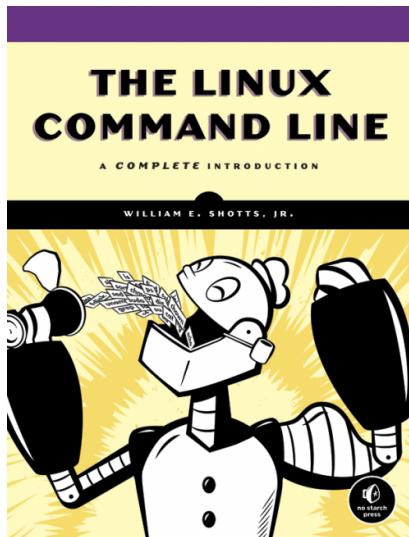
## Running Linux, 5th Edition

Matthias Kalle  
Dalheimer, Matt  
Welsh

## Linux® Shells by Example, Fourth Edition

Ellie Quigley

# Recommended Reading



The Linux Command Line  
By William Shotts  
Download free from [here](#).

# Objectives

- Explain one or more advantages to using the command line for research
- Explain one or more advantages to using the command line for programming
- Be able to get to the command line on your computer
- Understand how to navigate a linux operating system
- Know one or more command to examine and manipulate large files (1 gigbit+)

# Questions?