

# **Experiment No. 4**

Title: Pipes and filters in Linux

Batch: B-2 Roll No: 16010422234 Name: Chandana Galgali Date: 13/08/2024

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**Aim:** To implement pipes and filters in Linux.

Resources needed: Any open source OS/CoCalc online editor

Theory:

**Pre lab/Prior concepts:** 

### I/O Redirection

In this experiment, we will explore a powerful feature used by many command line programs called input/output redirection. As we have seen, many commands such as ls print their output on the display. This does not have to be the case, however. By using some special notation we can redirect the output of many commands to files, devices, and even to the input of other commands.

# **Standard Output**

Most command line programs that display their results do so by sending their results to a facility called standard output. By default, standard output directs its contents to the display. To redirect standard output to a file, the ">" character is used like this: [me@linuxbox me]\$ ls > file\_list.txt In this example, the ls command is executed and the results are written in a file named file\_list.txt. Since the output of ls was redirected to the file, no results appear on the display. Each time the command above is repeated, file\_list.txt is overwritten (from the beginning) with the output of the command ls. If you want the new results to be appended to the file instead, use ">>>" like this:

[me@linuxbox me]\$ ls >> file list.txt

When the results are appended, the new results are added to the end of the file, thus making the file longer each time the command is repeated. If the file does not exist when you attempt to append the redirected output, the file will be created.

### **Standard Input**

Many commands can accept input from a facility called standard input. By default, standard input gets its contents from the keyboard, but like standard output, it can be redirected. To redirect standard input from a file instead of the keyboard, the "<" character is used like this: [me@linuxbox me]\$ sort < file list.txt

In the above example we used the sort command to process the contents of file\_list.txt. The results are output on the display since the standard output is not redirected in this example. We could redirect standard output to another file like this:

[me@linuxbox me]\$ sort < file\_list.txt > sorted\_file\_list.txt

As you can see, a command can have both its input and output redirected. Be aware that the order of the redirection does not matter. The only requirement is that the redirection operators (the "<" and ">") must appear after the other options and arguments in the command.

# **Pipe**

A pipe is a way to connect the output of one program to the input of another program without any temporary file.

Pipe Defined as:

"A pipe is nothing but a temporary storage place where the output of one command is stored and then passed as the input for the second command. Pipes are used to run more than two commands (Multiple Commands) from the same command line.

## **Syntax:**

command1 | command2

example:

me@linuxbox me]\$ ls -l | less

In this example, the output of the ls command is fed into less. By using this "| less" trick, you can make any command have scrolling output. I use this technique all the time.By connecting commands together, you can accomplish amazing feats. Here are some examples you'll want to try:

Command	What it does
ls -lt   head	Displays the 10 newest files in the current directory.
du   sort -nr	Displays a list of directories and how much space they consume,
	sorted from the largest to the smallest.
findtype f -print   wc -l	Displays the total number of files in the current working directory
	and all of its subdirectories.

### **Filters**

One class of programs you can use with pipes is called filters. Filters take standard input and perform an operation upon it and send the results to standard output. In this way, they can be used to process information in powerful ways. Here are some of the common programs that can act as filters:

Command	What it does
sort	Sorts standard input then outputs the sorted result on standard output.
uniq	Given a sorted stream of data from standard input, it removes duplicate
	lines of data (i.e., it makes sure that every line is unique).
grep	Examines each line of data it receives from standard input and outputs
	every line that contains a specified pattern of characters.
fmt	Reads text from standard input, then outputs formatted text on standard
	output.
pr	Takes text input from standard input and splits the data into pages with
	page breaks, headers and footers in preparation for printing.

head Outputs the first few lines of its input. Useful for getting the header of a

file.

tail Outputs the last few lines of its input. Useful for things like getting the

most recent entries from a log file.

tr Translates characters. Can be used to perform tasks such as

upper/lowercase conversions or changing line termination characters from one type to another (for example, converting DOS text files into Unix

style text files).

sed Stream editor. Can perform more sophisticated text translations than tr.

awk An entire programming language designed for constructing filters.

Extremely powerful.

cut Cuts specific characters or fields from a file with options

paste Creates either rows or columns of data that are combined from two

separate files.

# Performing tasks with pipes

Printing from the command line. Linux provides a program called lpr that accepts standard input and sends it to the printer. It is often used with pipes and filters. Here are a couple of examples: cat poorly\_formatted\_report.txt | fmt | pr | lpr cat unsorted list with dupes.txt | sort | uniq | pr | lpr

In the first example, we use cat to read the file and output it to standard output, which is piped into the standard input of fmt. fmt formats the text into neat paragraphs and outputs it to standard output, which is piped into the standard input of pr. pr splits the text neatly into pages and outputs it to standard output, which is piped into the standard input of lpr. lpr takes its standard input and sends it to the printer.

The second example starts with an unsorted list of data with duplicate entries. First, cat sends the list into sort which sorts it and feeds it into uniq which removes any duplicates. Next pr and lpr are used to paginate and print the list.

Viewing the contents of tar files Often you will see software distributed as a gzipped tar file. This is a traditional Unix style tape archive file (created with tar) that has been compressed with gzip. You can recognize these files by their traditional file extensions, ".tar.gz" or ".tgz". You can use the following command to view the directory of such a file on a Linux system:

tar tzvf name\_of\_file.tar.gz | less

### **Activities:**

Write command which produces a list of all the files on the system, such that:

- Their full pathname does not contain the word data.
- Their filename does not contain the letter x.
- The script is Y2K compliant, so all 'y's have been replaced by 'k's. At the end, print out the number of files that were found.

Write commands that will list the size of each directory given on the command line, sorted by size. The size includes disk space used by the directory and all the files and subdirectories inside it. The script should take options to sort with smallest first, and with largest first.

Write a command to count the total number of the files in the present working directory.

Write a command to extract 4 lines starting from line number 5 to line number 8 from a file which contains 10 lines in it.

Create a file containing rollno, name and marks of 3 students and another file containing branch and address of same 3 students. Use space as delimiter in both files. Write commands to cut rollno and name files first file and address field from second file and paste result in new file and display it.

### **Results:**

```
chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox:-$ ls > file_list.txt
chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox:-$ cat file_list.txt

Desktop
Documents
Downloads
file_list.txt
Music
Pictures
Public
snap
Templates
Videos
chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox:-$ []
```

```
Open ∨ ⊣ file_list.txt

file_list.txt

Music

Pictures

Public

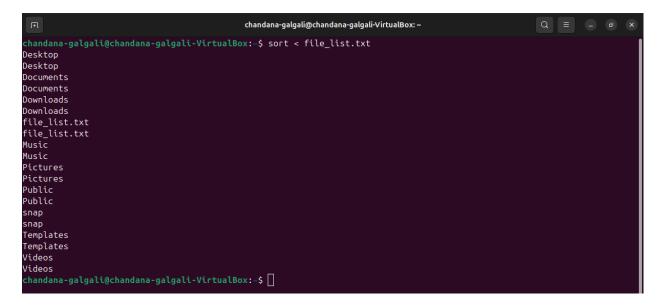
snap

Templates

Videos
```







```
chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox: ~
                                                                                                                                    Q = - 0
chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox:-$ sort < file_list.txt > sorted_file_list.txt
chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox:-$ cat sorted_file_list.txt
Desktop
Desktop
Documents
Documents
Downloads
Downloads
file_list.txt
file_list.txt
Music
Music
Pictures
Pictures
Public
Public
snap
snap
Templates
Templates
Videos
Videos
 chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox:~$ 🔲
```

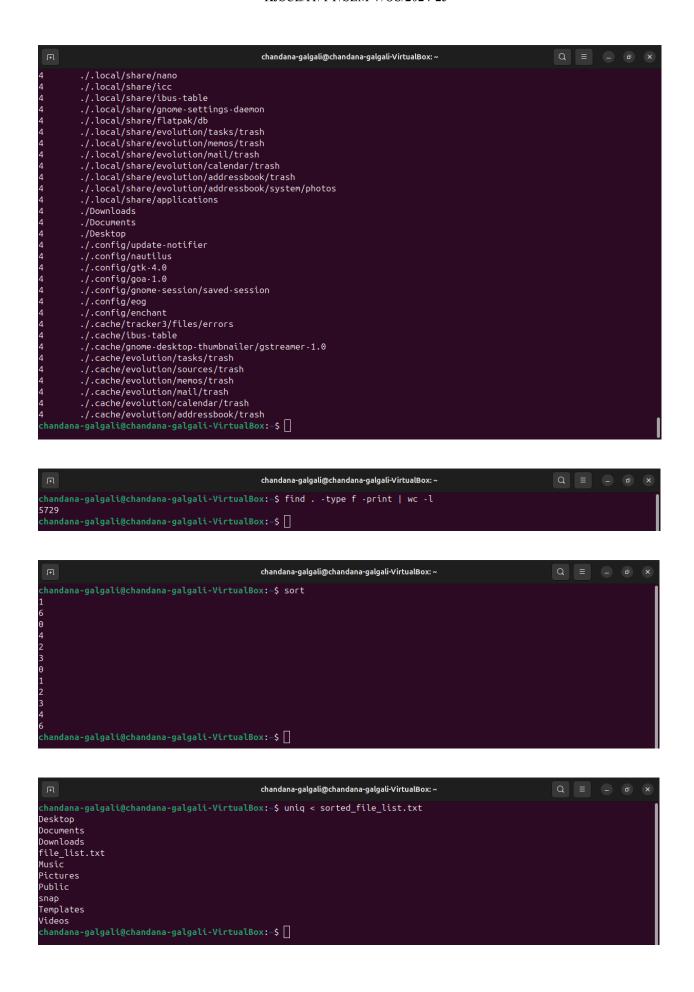




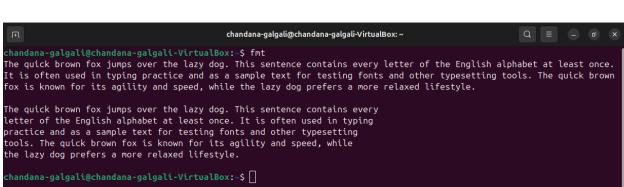
```
chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox: ~
total 44
drwxr-xr-x 2 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 4096 Aug 2 21:55 Desktop
drwxr-xr-x 2 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 4096 Aug
                                                         2 21:55 Documents
drwxr-xr-x 2 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 4096 Aug
                                                         2 21:55 Downloads
-rw-rw-r-- 1 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 172 Aug 14 21:53 file_list.txt
drwxr-xr-x 2 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 4096 Aug
                                                         2 21:55 Music
drwxr-xr-x 3 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 4096 Aug
                                                           22:19 Pictures
drwxr-xr-x 2 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 4096 Aug
                                                           21:55 Public
drwx----- 5 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 4096 Aug
                                                           00:00 snap
-rw-rw-r-- 1 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali  172 Aug 14 21:56 sorted_file_list.txt
drwxr-xr-x 2 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 4096 Aug
                                                         2 21:55 Templates
drwxr-xr-x 2 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 4096 Aug 2 21:55 Videos
(END)
```

```
chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox:-$ ls -lt | head total 44
-rw-rw-r-- 1 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 172 Aug 14 21:56 sorted_file_list.txt
-rw-rw-r-- 1 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 172 Aug 14 21:53 file_list.txt
drwx----- 5 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 4096 Aug 3 00:00 snap
drwxr-xr-x 3 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 4096 Aug 2 22:19 Pictures
drwxr-xr-x 2 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 4096 Aug 2 21:55 Documents
drwxr-xr-x 2 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 4096 Aug 2 21:55 Downloads
drwxr-xr-x 2 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 4096 Aug 2 21:55 Public
drwxr-xr-x 2 chandana-galgali chandana-galgali 4096 Aug 2 21:55 Templates
chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox:-$
```

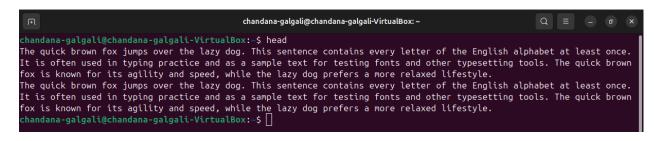
```
chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox: ~
:handana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox:~$ du | sort -nr
298428
270620
         ./snap
270164
         ./snap/firefox
270080
         ./snap/firefox/common
207628
         ./snap/firefox/common/.cache
         ./snap/firefox/common/.cache/mozilla
206188
206184
         ./snap/firefox/common/.cache/mozilla/firefox
         ./snap/firefox/common/.cache/mozilla/firefox/eaau7kpk.default
206180
168220
         ./snap/firefox/common/.cache/mozilla/firefox/eaau7kpk.default/cache2
         ./snap/firefox/common/.cache/mozilla/firefox/eaau7kpk.default/cache2/entries
167744
62448
         ./snap/firefox/common/.mozilla
         ./snap/firefox/common/.mozilla/firefox
62440
         ./snap/firefox/common/.mozilla/firefox/eaau7kpk.default
./snap/firefox/common/.mozilla/firefox/eaau7kpk.default/storage
62416
44300
         ./snap/firefox/common/.mozilla/firefox/eaau7kpk.default/storage/default
40976
23244
         ./snap/firefox/common/.cache/mozilla/firefox/eaau7kpk.default/startupCache
         ./snap/firefox/common/.mozilla/firefox/eaau7kpk.default/storage/default/https+++mail.google.com
20196
20112
         ./.cache
         ./snap/firefox/common/.mozilla/firefox/eaau7kpk.default/storage/default/https+++mail.google.com/cache
20060
         ./snap/firefox/common/.mozilla/firefox/eaau7kpk.default/storage/default/https+++mail.google.com/cache/morgue
17492
         ./.cache/tracker3
16104
         ./.cache/tracker3/files
16100
         ./snap/firefox/common/.mozilla/firefox/eaau7kpk.default/storage/default/https+++drive.google.com
./snap/firefox/common/.mozilla/firefox/eaau7kpk.default/storage/default/https+++drive.google.com/idb
15568
15544
         ./snap/firefox/common/.cache/mozilla/firefox/eaau7kpk.default/safebrowsing
./snap/firefox/common/.mozilla/firefox/eaau7kpk.default/safebrowsing
./snap/firefox/common/.mozilla/firefox/eaau7kpk.default/storage/default/https+++drive.google.com/idb/4041069256G
14640
14304
soDoegvlierD.files
         ./snap/firefox/common/.cache/mozilla/firefox/eaau7kpk.default/safebrowsing/google4
         ./Pictures
6680
         ./Pictures/Screenshots
6676
         ./snap/firefox/common/.mozilla/firefox/eaau7kpk.default/storage/default/https+++meet.google.com
4268
```

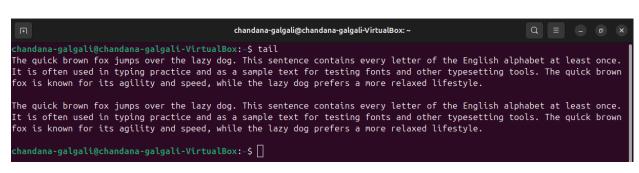




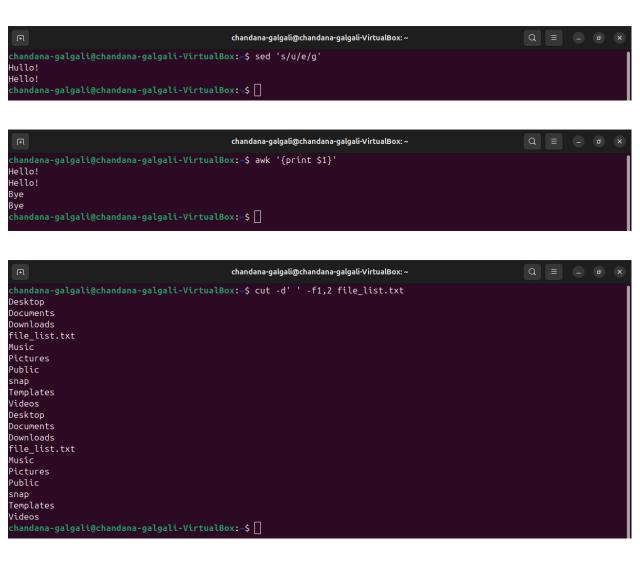


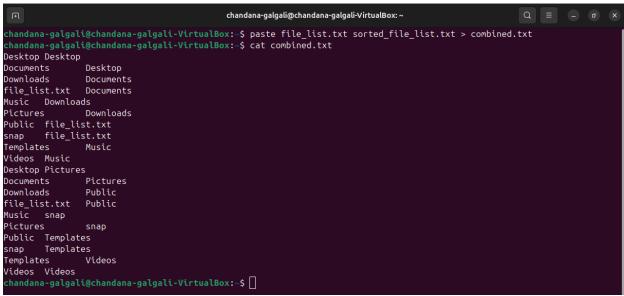


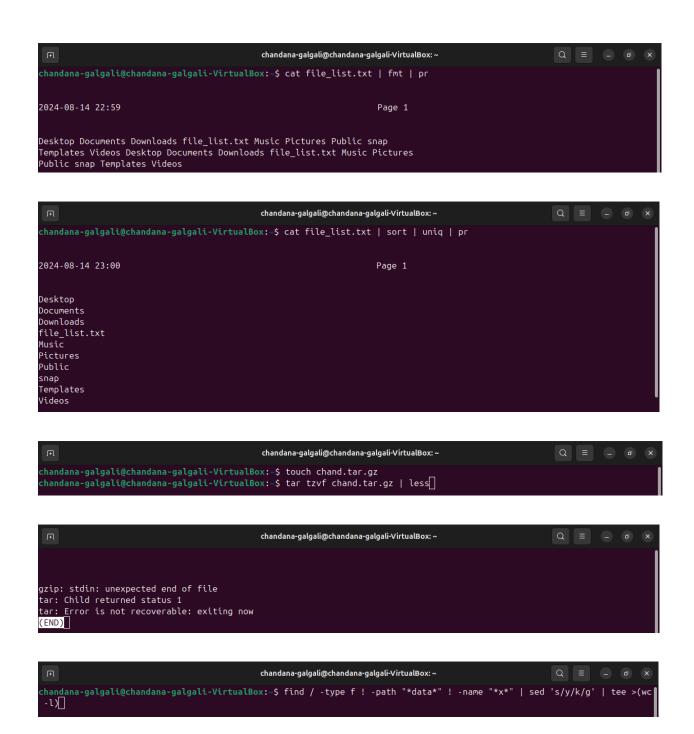




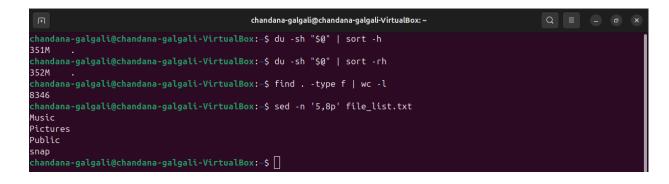


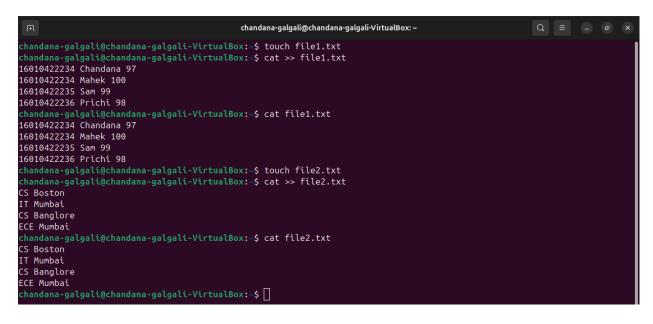






```
Q = - 0
                                                                  chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox: ~
/usr/lib/grub/i386-pc/help.mod
/usr/lib/grub/i386-pc/legack_password_test.mod
/usr/lib/grub/tsos-pc/legack_pas
/usr/lib/grub/grub-sort-version
/usr/lib/grub/grub-multi-install
/usr/lib/snapd/snap-failure
/usr/lib/snapd/skstem-shutdown
/usr/lib/snapd/snap-preseed
/usr/lib/snapd/info
/usr/lib/snapd/snapctl
/usr/lib/snapd/snap-confine
/usr/lib/snapd/snap-gdb-shim
/usr/lib/snapd/snapd.run-from-snap
/usr/lib/snapd/snap-discard-ns
/usr/lib/snapd/complete.sh
/usr/lib/snapd/snap-gdbserver-shim
/usr/lib/snapd/snap-recoverk-chooser
/usr/lib/snapd/snap-bootstrap
/usr/lib/snapd/snap-mgmt
,
/usr/lib/snapd/snap-seccomp
/usr/lib/snapd/snap-update-ns
/usr/lib/snapd/etelpmoc.sh
/usr/lib/snapd/snap-repair
,
/usr/lib/snapd/snap-device-helper
/usr/lib/snapd/snap-fde-kekmgr
/usr/lib/snapd/snapd-apparmor
/usr/lib/snapd/snapd
/usr/lib/nvidia/alternate-install-available
/usr/lib/os-release
/usr/lib/ufw/ufw-init-functions
/usr/lib/ufw/ufw-init
347308
 chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox:~$ 🗌
```





```
chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox: ~
 handana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox:-$ cut -d' ' -f1,2 file1.txt > temp1.txt
:handana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox:-$ cat temp1.txt
16010422234 Chandana
16010422234 Mahek
16010422235 Sam
16010422236 Prichi
chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox:-$ cut -d' ' -f1,2 file2.txt > temp2.txt
chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox:-$ cat temp2.txt
CS Boston
IT Mumbai
CS Banglore
ECE Mumbai
chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox:~$ paste temp1.txt temp2.txt > result.txt
chandana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox:~$ cat result.txt
16010422234 Chandana CS Boston
16010422234 Mahek
                             IT Mumbai
16010422235 Sam CS Banglore
16010422236 Prichi ECE
                             ECE Mumbai
:handana-galgali@chandana-galgali-VirtualBox:~$
```

Outcomes: CO4 - Demonstrate open source standards usage

### **Conclusion:**

In this experiment, we successfully implemented various commands using pipes and filters in Linux, demonstrating the ability to redirect input and output, manipulate text, and manage files and directories efficiently. The usage of these commands showcases the powerful functionality provided by the Linux command line to perform complex tasks with simple, yet effective commands. This exercise highlights the importance of understanding and utilizing pipes and filters to streamline processes, automate tasks, and enhance productivity in a Unix-like environment.

Grade: AA/AB/BB/BC/CC/CD/DD

Signature of faculty in-charge with date

### **References:**

### **Books/ Journals/ Websites:**

1. Richard Blum and Christine Bresnahan, "Linux Command Line & Shell Scripting", II Edition, Wiley, 2012.