Unix Command Line Cheat Sheet

Files and Directories

Doing things:

cd change directory

ls lis

pwd print working directory

mv move rm remove cp copy

The lingo:

root directoryhome directorythis directory

.. one directory back

wild card

Tips 'n tricks:

TAB tab completion

man __ see the manual for that command

^A beginning of line ^E end of line ^U delete whole line

PS1='\$' reduce prompt to just \$

clear clean workspace (keeps history)

^C ABORT/CANCEL

A bit more advanced

head the beginning of a file
tail the end of a file
echo print on screen
wc word count
sort sort
history print history

Pipes and filters

redirectpipe

Examples:

sort -n lengths.txt > sorted-lengths.txt wc -l *.txt | sort -n | head -5

Looking at files in command line

cat concatenates contents line by line, printing
more shows file and takes back to command line

less shows file in whole window

NANO - simplest text editor

^o write out
^x exit
^k cut
^w find

Searching

grep grep
find find

Examples:

grep -n -w "the" haiku.txt

find . -name '*.txt'

grep "FE" \$(find .. -name '*.pdb')

Loops

for datafile in *[AB].txt; do echo \$datafile stats-\$datafile; done

Variations on these themes

list

ls -a list even files starting with .

ls -1 list in long format (includes dates)

1s -F list with slash after directories

wc

wc -1 count lines in file
wc -w count words in file
wc -c count characters in file

Shell scripting

starts comment lines
\$1 or \$2 etc. indicates arguments to use
\$0 indicates to use all arguments

BONUS

cut cuts
sed seds
awk awks

This is a command line cheat sheet made February 2016 for Gerstner Sloan Kettering Graduate Students. It is still a work in progress. And remember Googling is your friend!