NOTE: As discussed Friday, I am unable to log in to Bridgman, and have received no response to my trouble ticket. I am submitting the problems that I could answer.

1a. What is the difference between absolute and relative paths?

Absolute paths begin at the top of the filesystem directory tree. Absolute paths start with /. Absolute paths describe a file location relative to the root directory.

Relative paths refer to the current directory. Relative paths start with either . or .. . Relative paths describe a file location relative to the current working directory.

1b. What command can you use to find where you currently are in the directory?

pwd (print working directory)

1c. What is the command to change directories?

“cd [path]” to change to a specific directory, or just “cd” to return to the home directory.

1d. What is the command to take you back to your home directory, regardless of where you are in the directory structure?

~ (the tilde)

1e. What is the command to take you up to your parent directory?

cd ..

1f. What is the command to see what files are in the current directory?

ls (that is “L”, not “I”)

1g. What is the command to create a directory?

mkdir (make directory)

1h. What are two different text editors on Linux? Which do you prefer?

Nano and emacs. Nano is simpler, and therefore a plus for me, although emacs lets you do more.

1i. What is the command to remove a file?

rm (remove)

1j. What is the command to remove a directory?

rm -r

1k. What is the command to remove a directory and its sub-directories?

rm -rf

1l. How would I remove all .py files from a directory?

rm \*.py

1m. How do I find out what options ls has? Describe what the -a, -l, and -h options do.

man ls

-a: do not ignore entries starting with .

-l: use a long-listing format

-h: human-readable, which prints in large sizes

5a. What is an environment variable?

Environment variables can store information about the environment and provide a shorthand for long strings such as absolute paths.

5b. What is the name of the file where these are saved so they are loaded upon user login?

.bashrc

5c. What is an alias?

An alias does a simple replacement of the first argument by a second. This can be used to group file names according to a user-defined convention (such as naming every file after different birds, colors, or English philosophers).

5d. How do I update my environment variables after editing my .bashrc so that they take effect in the *current* terminal window (shell)?

The source command.