Cd ~ home directory

Root directory which is referred to as / (a slash) is the topmost level of the system drive while Home directory which is /Users/<short username> (also referred to as ~) is the directory where the folders like Documents, Music, Pictures reside.  
  
In Linux which also follows a similar convention has / as the root and /home/<username> (referred to as ~) is home.  
  
While C: is the Windows-counterpart to root and C:\Users\<username> is the Home or User folder.