



# Shell Command & Shell Script



**2023-2024**

**COMP2113B/C Programming Technologies / ENGG1340B/C Computer Programming II**

**Dr. Chenxiong Qian & Dr. T.W. Chim (E-mail: [cqian@cs.hku.hk](mailto:cqian@cs.hku.hk) & [twchim@cs.hku.hk](mailto:twchim@cs.hku.hk))**

**Department of Computer Science, The University of Hong Kong**

# We are going to learn...

- Useful Shell commands
- Shell Script
  - A “Hello World” example
  - Variables
  - No quote, ‘single quote’ and “double quote”
  - String operations
  - Flow of control (if-else, for loop)
  - Mathematical operations
  - Arguments

What is the programming syntax of shell script?



# Useful

# Shell Commands

- *Please refer to Module 1 for details!*
- *You must try them in order to remember them!*

# Directory manipulations

Command	Meaning
<code>pwd</code>	<code>n fb</code> <b>present working directory...</b>
<code>ls</code> <code>ls -l</code>	<code>...</code> <code>fb n ;</code> <code>fb ;</code> <code>;</code> <code>n fb ;</code> <code>...</code>
<code>cd dir</code> <code>cd ~</code> <code>cd ..</code> <code>cd .</code>	<b>changes</b> <code>dir...</code> <code>n ...</code> <code>...</code> <code>... ; n n w</code> <code>fb ...</code>
<code>mkdir dir</code>	<b>creates</b> <code>n dir...</code>
<code>rmdir dir</code>	<b>removes</b> <code>dir...</code> <code>fb dir</code> <b>empty...</b>
<code>rm -rf dir</code>	<b>removes the non empty directory</b> <code>dir</code> <code>c</code> <code>fb ..</code>
<code>mv dir dir2</code>	<code>fb dir2</code> <b>does not exist;</b> <b>renames</b> <code>fb n dir</code> <code>dir2...</code> <code>;</code> <b>moves</b> <code>dir</code> <code>dir2...</code>
<code>cp -r dir1 dir2</code>	<b>copy</b> <code>dir1</code> <code>dir2</code> <code>c</code>

# File manipulations 1

Command	Meaning
<code>pico a.cpp</code>	<code>fb a.cpp...</code> <code>ffb</code> <code>) " " w</code> <code>n n [</code>  <code>N ...</code>  <code>vi vim )W N w [</code>
<code>g++ a.cpp -o a.o</code>	<code>w n n n a.cpp</code> <code>y c a.o...</code> <code>y c n w</code> <code>y ...y ...</code>
<code>./a.o</code>	<code>w n a.o...</code>

# File manipulations 2

Command	Meaning
<b>cp</b> file1 file2	<b>Copy</b> file1 file2...
<b>mv</b> file dir <b>mv</b> file1 file2 <b>mv</b> dir1 dir2	file dir ; <b>moves</b> file dir... file1 file2 ; <b>renames</b> file1 file2... file1 file2 ; <b>mv</b> file1 file2...
<b>rm</b> file <b>rm -rf</b> dir	<b>Remove</b> file... <b>Remove</b> file dir.
<b>touch</b> file	<b>Create an empty file</b> file...
<b>cat</b> file	<b>Display the content</b> file...

# Others

Command	Meaning
<code>wc file</code>	<b>counts</b> n c fb ; ; file...
<code>sort file</code>	<b>sorts</b> fbfile c ...
<code>cut -d, -f1 file</code>	fb <b>columns of data</b> ... w n fb c fb -d; n fb c fb -f ) fb n c fb n [...
<code>grep 'abc' file</code>	<b>returns the lines</b> fb abc"..." N n c fb y ) fb -E[...
<code>uniq file</code>	<b>removes adjacent duplicate</b> fb n ...
<code>diff file1 file2</code>	<b>different</b> file1 file2... w ; diff n n n c fb n ...
<code>spell file</code>	<b>incorrect words</b> file...

# Examples

- What is the full path of your default directory when you startup your shell?

```
/ n / / n
```

present  
working directory  
c fb ...



- What are the directories in the root directory?

```
/  
  
fb
```

- How to go back to your home directory?



# Examples

- **Copy** the source code `hello.cpp` to `hello2.cpp`

```
... ..
```

- **Rename** `hello2.cpp` to `backup.cpp`

```
n w ... c ...
```

- **Create** a directory “`backup`” and move `backup.cpp` in it.

```
n      c  
n wc   ...  c
```

# Wildcards

- The Linux shell has a mechanism to generate a list of file names matching a pattern

Wildcard	Meaning
*	any <b>string</b> ...
?	any <b>character</b> ...

```
ls *.c *.o
hello.cpp  hello.o
```

# File permission & security

- You can use the list directory command `ls -l` to return the permission code of files / directories.

```
fb
fb
-rw-----...      n      .      fb
```


# File permission & security

Type	Red			Green			Orange		
	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Orange	Orange	Orange

# File permission & security

Type	User permissions			Group permissions			Others permissions		
-	r	w	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## User permissions

 c      Read )**r**[ ; Write )**w**[; Execute )**x**[      n  
 fb      fb      fb ...

 C                  n                  "rw-";                  R

W                  fb ; c                  x                  fb ...

# File permission & security



n fb fb /

**chmod** **who**{**operator**}**permissions**{ fb n

**who**

value	meaning
u	) [
g	
o	
a	) ; [

**operator**

value	meaning
+	n
-	n w n
=	n

**permissions**

value	meaning
r	n
w	n
x	y n



)+[ y )x[ n )u[.



)+[ )r[ )w[ n )a[.



n w )-[ )r[ )w[ fb n )g[  
)o[

n	y fb
n	fb
n	fb

# Examples

- List the permission of the files with prefix “hello.”

```
...  
... n . ...  
... n . ...
```

- Take away the execute permission (**x**) on hello.o from user (**u**), what will happen?

```
 n y ...  
./. ...  
c . ./... n
```

# Shell Script

*Please refer to Module 2 for details!*



# Motivation

n n N ... fb  
y r fb  
n n c  
n n w  
n ;

```
#!/bin/bash
++ ... -o ...
./ ... < ...y > ...y
sort ...y | uniq > r ...y
spell r ...y > n ...y
diff r ...y n ...y | grep -E
```

```
./ ...
< loop
< polo
< pool
```



Answer:

n n c w  
fb ...

shell script...



**A Hello World**

**Example**

# My first shell script

● `#!/bin/bash` n

fb

fb

...

● fb `#!`

n

c

...

;

bash

n )

bash shell[...

`#!/bin/bash`

`#!/bin/bash`



fb  
shell

n

fb

n

...

Bash

which bash

n n

Bash shell...

...

# Comments and echo

## Commenting

y fb ; fb #  
comment

...

echo "Hello world!"

echo n n  
fb w c ...

fb -n fb

...

echo -n "Hello World!"

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
# This is a comment
```

```
echo "Hello world!"
```

...

# Execute(x) permission to run



)+[ **execute** )x[ c n y c c **granting**  
**user** )u[...

No execute (x) permission!



n w y  
y

```
#!/bin/bash  
# This is a comment  
echo "Hello world!"
```

...

```
./...  
C . ./... n  
n y ...  
./...
```

# Shell script is very useful



n n fb n c fb  
n n c ...

Note: < and > are used to redirect input from a file and redirect output to a file.

```
//add.cpp
#include iostream
using namespace std:
int main()
{
    int a; b; c:
    cin  a  b  c:
    cout  a  b  c  :
```

3 4 5

...y

12

...y

```
#!/bin/bash
```

n

```
g++ add.cpp add.o
```

```
./add.o input.txt output.txt
```

```
cat output.txt
```

y n ...

VERY USEFUL ☺!

```
n ;
y c ;
J c ./hello.sh
```

```
n y y n ...
./ y n ...
```



# An interpreted language



**interpreted language; c**

n

...



n

**parsed and interpreted**

**by the shell every time the program is executed...**



;

n

c

y

c

fb

n

c

fb

y

n

...



**modify the program**

**more quickly**

c

n

...



w

;

n

**slower**

c

y

n

...

# Variables



# string variable only

● w c . **string...**

● W c n **case sensitive...**

● fb n w c **a**  
w cat ...

**IMPORTANT!!!!**

There must be **NO SPACE**  
before and after the = sign.



**a** **cat**

**No space! No space!**

● \$ **retrieve the value** fb w c ...

**echo** **a**

**A space**

# Spacing is critical!



Space before and after =



**BEFORE** **AFTER** will  
cause problem

w

c

command...

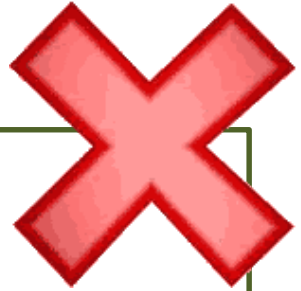
```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
a
```

```
echo a
```

y n

...



```
./ y n ...
```

```
./ y n ... . a: command not found
```



NO space before and after =



**[Setting value] NO \$ sign**  
setting

w

fb w

c

...



**[Retrieve value] Use \$ sign**  
retrieving

w

fb w

c

...

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
a
```

```
echo a
```

y n

c...



```
./ y n c...
```

# Variables

- W C **without declaration...**
- C **creates the variable automatically when a variable is used...**

## The **read** command

● **read** n n  
fb n  
w c fb n n ...

● w c **name**  
n ;  
...

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
echo
```

n

```
read name
```

y n ...

```
./ y n ...
```

n

**Chim**

# Variables

- W C **without declaration...**
- C **creates the variable automatically when a variable is used...**

Use \$ when retrieve value

- [Retrieving value]  
r fb w c ... **retrieving** w

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
echo
```

```
read name
```

```
echo "name"
```

```
./ y n ...
```

```
n
```

```
n
```

```
Hello Chim
```

# Quoting

# Specifying strings

● **Quoting**      w      n      n n  
...

● Unquoted

● 'Single quote'

● "Double quote"



# Unquoted

● c n fb w without any quoting;  
fb single word... w

**Error:** Unquoted word with space

● ; "pie"  
command; fb  
command not found...

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
a
```

```
echo a
```

```
b
```

```
echo b
```

y n ...

```
./ y n ...
```

```
./ y n ... .
```

**pie: command not found**

# Single quote



w c  
w fb

...

fb single quote c

```
#!/bin/bash
```

*a*

echo *a*

y n ...

```
./ y n ...
```



# Single quote



w c  
w fb ...

single quote c



w ; **does not support variable substitution...**

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
a
```

```
echo a
```

```
b \
```

```
echo b
```

```
y n ...
```

**NOT**

```
\ ;
```

w c  
fb w c a fb

**single quote...**



```
./ y n ...
```

```
$a\ $
```

# Double quote

fb fb n r ; double quote will handle fb  
three special characters  
n ...

Symbol	Meaning
	Dollar sign - W c c ...
\	Backslash - ...
	Back quotes - c n n



c



Where is the back quote button on keyboard?



C r

# Double quote

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
a
```

```
b a
```

```
echo b
```

Supports value with space



c r n w

...

Supports variable substitution



c r

fb

w

fbw

c

**b**

Apple pie

c

**NOT**

\$a ...

**variable substitution;**

y n ...

```
./ y n ...
```

```
Apple pie
```

# Double quote

```
#!/bin/bash
```

*a*

*b* *a*

echo *b*

*c* \ *a*

echo *c*

*d* ls

echo *d*

y n ...

./ y n ...

**\$a = Apple pie**  
**example6.sh**

## Supports escape characters

escape characters

c r ...

...;\\$

\\$a

c c

w fbw c *a*

**`Back quote` = shell command!**

C r n shell command...

fb ; **`ls`**  
command  
command...

) ...;\`ls`

c y  
c **the result of the**

fb

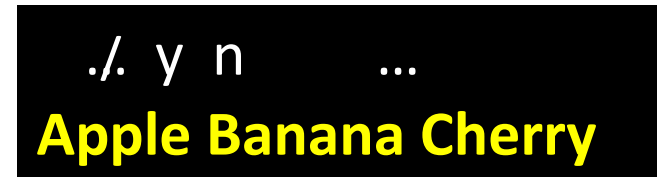
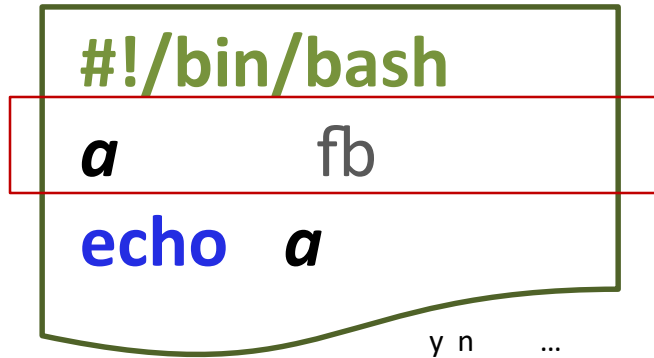
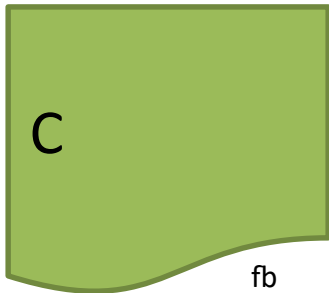
example6.sh

y n [

# Double quote



back quotes ; fb  
command w c fb fb ...



Question:

c

each

word

fb

Answer:

n

"for

"

n

n ;

c

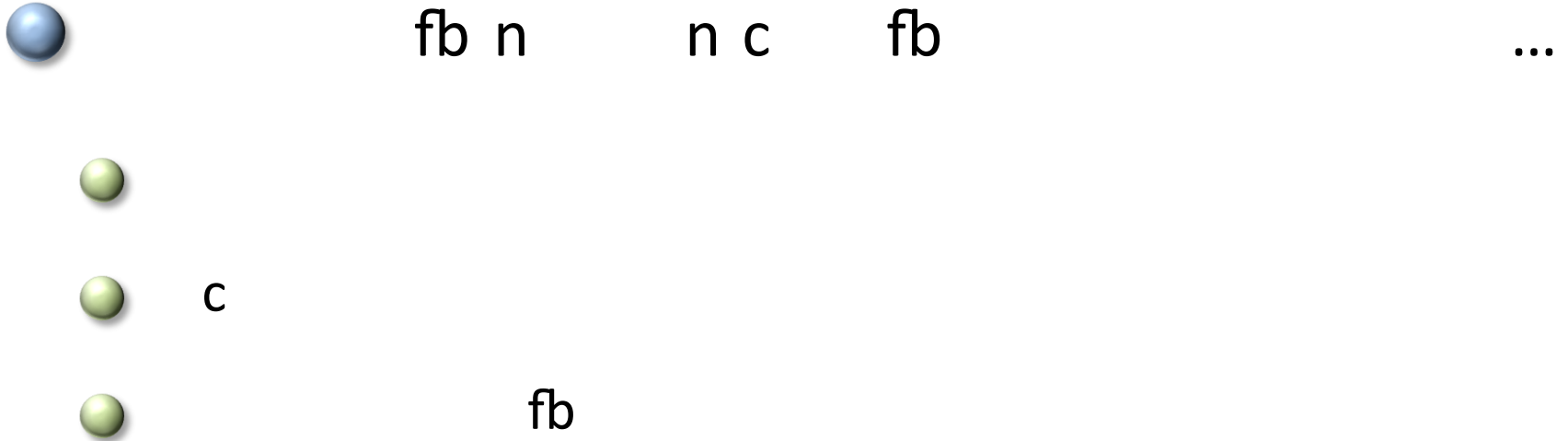
.



# String

# operations

# String Operation



# String length

String length.      w      a;      fb  
n c      fb      a...

**`${#a}`**

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
a
```

```
echo
```

```
fb\ $a\ ${#a}
```

y n ...

**\** is an escape character

**\${#a}** returns the string length (i.e., 5)

./. y n

...

fb'

**5**



# Substring

● Substring (use “:”).

*w*      *a*;      *fb*

*c*      *fb*      *fb n*      *pos*

*len...*

**`${a:pos:len}`**

`#!/bin/bash`

*a*

`echo $a      .      ${a:5:5}`

*y n ...*

`./ y n ...`

`...`

*c*

**apple**

P

i

n

e

a

p

p

l

e

**Note:**

*fb*


*w*

*y*

*...*



# Replace

 **Replace** ) **"/"**[... w **a**; fb  
 fb n c **first**  
**occurrence** fb **from** **to**...

**$\${a/from/to}$**

**#!/bin/bash**

**a**

**from**

**to** j

**echo -n**

**echo** c

fb \  **$\$from$**  \ c \  **$\$to$**  \  
 **$\${a/\$from/\$to}$**

**./.** y n ...

fb

c

j

c

n

**Apple juice**



**Note:**  
**echo**

fb **-n**;

w

y **echo**

y n ...

n

...

# Flow of Control

# If-else statement

 c y fb if n c ...

```
if [ condition ]  
then  
    fb n    n  
fi
```

```
if [ condition 1 ]  
then  
    echo  
elif [ condition 2 ]  
then  
    echo  
else  
    echo  
fi
```

# [ condition ] for string



fb n

n

...

String comparisons	Meaning
[ <i>string</i> ]	True ffb fb <i>string</i>
[ <i>string1</i> == <i>string2</i> ]	True ffb r
[ <i>string1</i> != <i>string2</i> ]	True ffb ffb
[ <i>string1</i> \> <i>string2</i> ]	True ffb <i>string1</i> fb <i>string2</i>
[ <i>string1</i> \< <i>string2</i> ]	True ffb <i>string1</i> c fb <i>string2</i>



**double quote**

**if there are spaces inside *string1***

*string1*

n

*string2*

**work even**

***string2*...**

# Spacing is critical!

**if** ["\$ans"=="Y"]



fb NO SPACE c  
n ; n  
n command...  
fb "Command not  
found"

```
./ y n ...  
n w ... fb ) / [
```

./example11.sh: [Y==Y] command not found

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
echo
```

```
n w ... fb ) / [
```

```
read ans
```

```
if [ ans ]
```

```
then
```

```
rm -rf *.cpp
```

```
echo ... fb n w
```

```
fi
```

```
y n ... ) [
```

**if** [ "\$ans" == "Y" ]

space space

space

space

space



# [ condition ] for file



w

w

fb

...

File checking	Meaning
[ -e <i>file</i> ]	True <del>fb</del> <i>file</i> <b>exists</b> ...
[ -f <i>file</i> ]	True <del>fb</del> <i>file</i> <b>is a file</b> ...
[ -d <i>file</i> ]	True <del>fb</del> <i>file</i> <b>is a directory</b> ...
[ -s <i>file</i> ]	True <del>fb</del> <i>file</i> <b>has size &gt; 0</b> ...
[ -r <i>file</i> ]	True <del>fb</del> <i>file</i> <b>is readable</b> ...
[ -w <i>file</i> ]	True <del>fb</del> <i>file</i> <b>is writable</b> ...
[ -x <i>file</i> ]	True <del>fb</del> <i>file</i> <b>is executable</b> ...



**Note:**

fb

n

y

...

# [ condition ] for file

fb hello.cpp

y .

./ y n ...

**hello.cpp not found!**

n n

**compile run**

hello.cpp;

n ) [ fb ...



```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
if [ -e hello.cpp ]
```

```
then
```

```
else
```

```
echo
```

```
...
```

```
fb
```

```
fi
```

```
y n
```

```
...
```



# [ condition ] for file



fb hello.cpp

fb

./ y n ...

**Hello World!**

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
if [ -e hello.cpp ]
```

```
then
```

```
rm *.o
```

```
g++ hello.cpp -o hello.o
```

```
if [ -e hello.o ]
```

```
then
```

```
./hello.o
```

```
fi
```

```
else
```

```
echo
```

```
...
```

```
fb
```

```
fi
```

y n

...

# [ condition ] for file

fb hello.cpp  
n .

```
./ y n ...  
Compilation failed!
```

```
) n  
c n [
```

```
#!/bin/bash  
if [ -e hello.cpp ]  
then  
  rm *.o  
  g++ hello.cpp -o hello.o  
  if [ -e hello.o ]  
  then  
    ./hello.o  
  else  
    echo n fb  
    cat error.txt  
  fi  
else  
  echo ... fb  
fi  
y n ...
```

# [ condition ] for command



c shell **command...**



y

w  
fb ...

fb n n

```
./ y n ...  
cp: cannot stat `file'123 : No such file or directory  
Command failed
```

fb

```
./ y n ...  
Command executed successfully  
fb  
file123 fileabc
```

```
#!/bin/bash  
if cp file123 fileabc  
then  
    echo n n y fb  
else  
    echo n n fb  
fi
```

y n ...

# for loop



for

fb

...

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
list
```

```
for i in $list
```

```
do
```

```
    echo
```

*i*

```
done
```

y n ...

```
./ y n
```

...

1

2

3

4

5

# for loop

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
list `ls *.cpp`
```

```
for name in list
```

```
do
```

```
    cp name name.c
```

```
done
```

```
`ls *.cpp`
```

```
fb n n ls *.cpp  
fb fb fb y .cpp  
[...
```

```
... C...  
./c ...  
...  
... a.cpp.backup  
C... b.cpp.backup
```



for

;

c


.cpp fb



# **Mathematics**

# **operations**

# Mathematics operations


 n n                      fb n                      n  
                          ... w                      ;                      fb n  
 n                      n                      **let**                      n n                      ...

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
a 10
```


```
let a a a a/ a
```

```
echo a
```

y n ...

```
./ y n ...
```

# [ condition ] for numbers

 fb                      fb n n                      n                      n  
                                  fb **if**                      n                      ;                      y

...

Integer comparisons	Meaning
[ <i>a</i> -eq <i>b</i> ]	True if <i>a</i> = <i>b</i>
[ <i>a</i> -ne <i>b</i> ]	True if <i>a</i> ≠ <i>b</i>
[ <i>a</i> -lt <i>b</i> ]	True if <i>a</i> < <i>b</i>
[ <i>a</i> -le <i>b</i> ]	True if <i>a</i> ≤ <i>b</i>
[ <i>a</i> -gt <i>b</i> ]	True if <i>a</i> > <i>b</i>
[ <i>a</i> -ge <i>b</i> ]	True if <i>a</i> ≥ <i>b</i>



# Mathematics operations



n

fib

...

./ y n

...

C

n

;

C

n

;

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
a 100
```

```
b 99
```

```
echo C n ;
```

```
if [ a > b ]
```

```
then
```

```
echo
```

```
else
```

```
echo c
```

```
fi
```

```
echo C n ;
```

```
if [ a -gt b ]
```

```
then
```

```
echo
```

```
else
```




```
echo c
```

```
fi
```

y n ...

# Arguments

# Getting arguments

	Command line arguments	c				\$0; \$1; .....
	\$9...			n	fb	...
	n n		n	fb	\$9	c
	\$#		n c	fb	n	y
	...					

```
./ y n ... n
      3 n
./example18.sh
sun
mon
tue
```

```
#!/bin/bash
echo "There are $# arguments"
echo \      $0
echo \      $1
echo \      $2
echo \      $3
```

y n ...



# END



**2023-2024**

**COMP2113B/C Programming Technologies / ENGG1340B/C Computer Programming II**

**Dr. Chenxiong Qian & Dr. T.W. Chim (E-mail: [cqian@cs.hku.hk](mailto:cqian@cs.hku.hk) & [twchim@cs.hku.hk](mailto:twchim@cs.hku.hk))**

**Department of Computer Science, The University of Hong Kong**