BIO609: Unix

Part 2: Bash scripting



With short code snippets and exercises







What is bash?

Segnification | 1 ppd | 1 ppd

Bash is a Unix shell and command language

- default login shell
- command processor that runs in a text window (console)
- user types commands, which are executed
- script file also called a shell script (usually named .sh)
- **filename globbing** (wildcard matching, * ?)
- piping |
- \$variables
- control structures, condition testing, iteration (if, for)

My first bash script

```
$ vi first_script.sh
```

vi is in command mode press i (enters insert mode)

```
#!/bin/bash
echo "My first script :)"
```

press **ESC** (enters **command mode**) type ":wq"

```
$ chmod +x first_script.sh
$ ./first_script.sh
```

set executable flag to first_script.sh and run the script

My first script :)

output on the screen

Writing to a file

Special character > redirects output to a file

Special character >> appends output to a file

Variables

Variables are "named boxes" for values

- name=value (no spaces around =)
- to access, use \$ sign
- enclose variable name in {} if using in combination with other names
- some environment variables that are defined by the shell, like \$HOME

```
#!/bin/bash
home_folder=/home/student
echo "My home folder is $home_folder"
echo "My data folder is ${home_folder}/data"
```



Write a script that will store the environment variable \$HOME to the file home folder.txt

Arrays

Arrays are simply variables with multiple values (lists)

- name=(value0 value1 value2 ...)
- access by index starting from 0

```
#!/bin/bash
color=(red green blue)
echo ${color[*]} # echo all values from array
color[3]=yellow # add new value to array
echo "The sky is ${color[2]}"
echo "There are ${#color[*]} colors in my array"
```

FOR loop

Iterate over values and repeat parts of code

```
#!/bin/bash
for i in 1 2 3 4 5
do
    echo "Current iteration is $i"
done

for i in {1..100}
do
    echo "Current iteration is $i"
done
```

FOR loop (more examples)

Iterate over values and repeat parts of code

```
#!/bin/bash
for i in *.sh
do
    echo "Current script file $i"
done

colors=(red green blue)
for color in ${colors[*]}
do
    echo "The color is $color"
done
```

FOR loop, a convenient list of strings

```
#!/bin/bash

list="item1
item2
item3
item4"

for item_name in $list
do
    echo $item_name
done
```

WHILE loop

Iterate until conditions are met

```
#!/bin/bash
count=0
while [[ $count -lt 4 ]]
do
     echo "Current count is $count"
    let count=count+1
done
```

IF statement

Check a condition and reach depending on the outcome

- can be composed of many **elif** statements
- always tested in order of appearance
- else clause is optional
- boolean operator to test if file exists: -e
- string1 = string2, string1 != string2

```
#!/bin/bash
if [[ something1 ]]
then
    command1
elif [[ something2 ]]
then
    command2
else
    command3
fi
```

```
#!/bin/bash
if [[ -e log.txt ]]
then
echo "log file exists"
else
echo "log does not exist"
```

```
#!/bin/bash
name=Andrej
if [[ $name = "Gregor"]]
then
echo "Your name is Gregor"
else
echo "Andrej"
fi
```

IF cheat sheet

FILES conditions	-e FILE	does FILE exist?
STRING conditions	string1 = string2 string1 != string2	are strings equal? are strings different?
INTEGER conditions	int1 -eq int2	are numbers equal?
	int1 -ne int2	are numbers not equal?
	int1 -It int2	is int1 < int2 ?
	int1 -gt int2	is int1 > int2 ?
	int1 -le int2	is int1 <= int2 ?
	int1 -ge int2	is int1 >= int2 ?
	int1%int2	division remainder (modulo, mod)
EXPRESSIONS	!exp	negates expression (logical NOT)
	exp1 && exp2	logical AND
	exp1 exp2	logical OR

IF another example

```
#!/bin/bash
for i in {1..4}
do

if [[ $i = 1 ]]
then
    echo "first round"
elif [[ $i = 2 ]]
then
    echo "second round"
else
    echo "round $i"
fi
done
```

Write a script that will print out all numbers between 1 and 1000 that are dividable by 13.

\$((number%13)) -eq 0

Write a script that will check if "black" is inside the color array we used before and will print "yes" if it's there

colors=(red green blue) # the color array

Commands in parallel

Run command in the background, add &

```
command1 & command2 & wait # if you want to wait until commands are done
```

Background commands in a for loop, with maximum number of threads

```
count=0
for i in {1..10}
do
command1
command2
. (
let count+=1
# () for expression to be interpreted as mathematical operation
# % modulo, returns the remainder of the division
if [[ $((count%4)) -eq 0 ]] # max 4 threads
then
 wait
fi
```

Special characters

comment character, anything after on same line is ignored \$ expansion character (variables) "text" protects text from being split into multiple words or arguments 'text' similar as "text", however prevents special characters meaning escape character, prevents next character to be special > and < redirect characters (of input / output of a command) pipe character, sends output of one command to the input of the next



Write a script that will print out exactly **How are * doing \$today?**