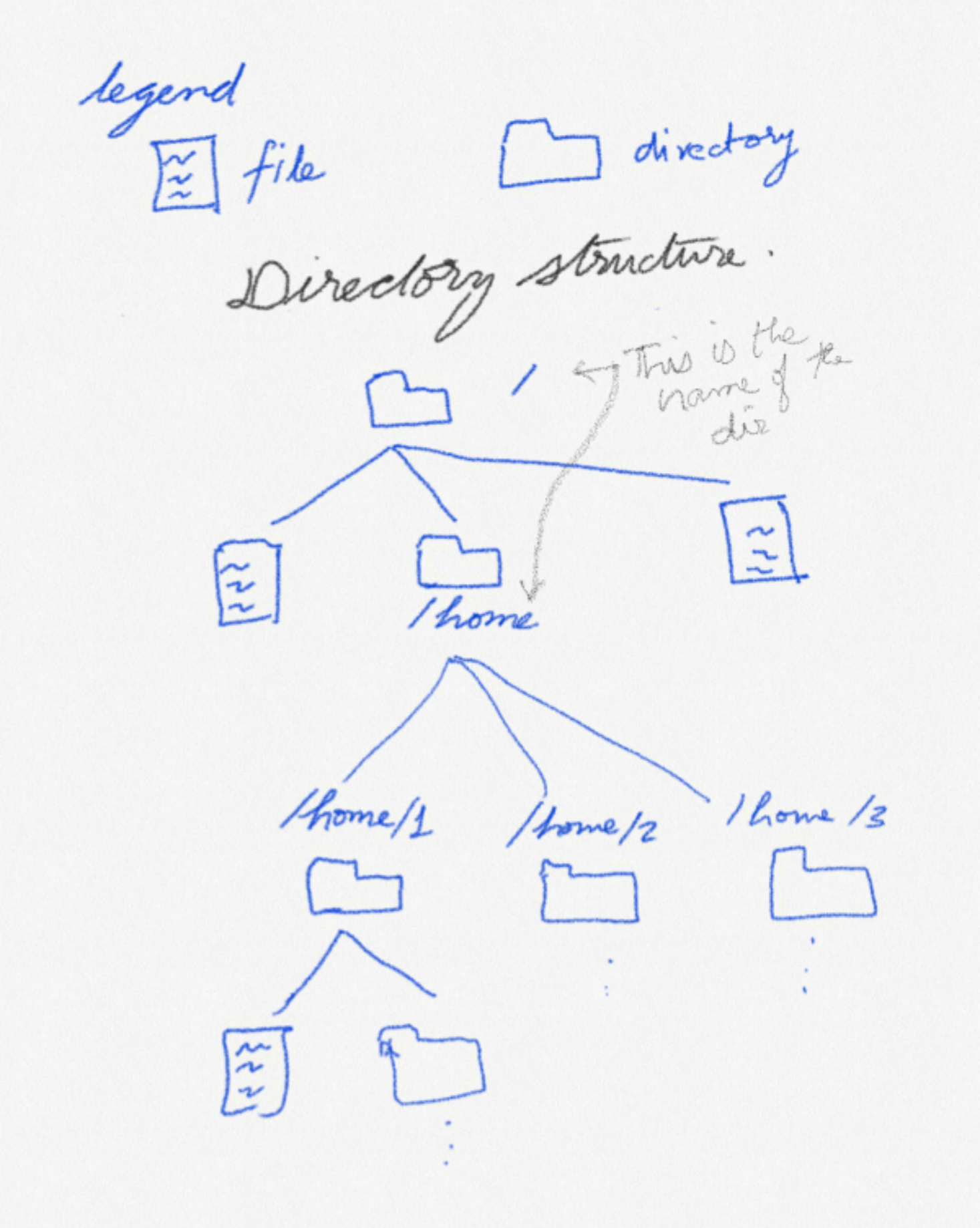
Linux commands

The contents in a Linux system are organized using directories, also called as folders. Each directory can contain files or other directories. A directory can also be empty. This recursive structure of directories allows us to organize files in a hierarchical fashion.



After logging into a remote server using ssh the user gets a command prompt where she can type in commands, this command prompt is produced by a program called as a shell.

In Linux, a shell is a program that communicates with the underlying OS and passes commands from the user to it. Here we list out some of the commands for file editing using shell. The directory in which the user logins into is called as home directory of that user.

In what follows remember that the case (upper or lower) of the commands is important.

1. **pwd** - present working directory. When a user logs into the system the shell is in the home directory.
2. **ls** - list stuff in a directory
3. **cd** - change the present working directory. To change to a directory named mydir, type "cd mydir" and press enter. To return to the home directory type "cd" and press enter.
4. **mkdir**, **rmdir** - make or delete a directory. To create a new directory named mydir, use the command "mkdir mydir". To remove an empty directory mydir, use "rmdir mydir".
5. **rm xyz** - removes file named xyz.
6. **man xyz** - displays manual of command named xyz. For example, man ls. To quit press q.
7. **--help** - displays help for a command. Ex: ls --help.
8. **cp xyz mydir/** - copies a file named xyz into a folder named mydir. Both xyz and mydir must be present in the current directory.
9. **mv** - move files. Works similarly to cp.
10. **nano** - a simple file editor.

Exercises:

1. Check the manual (or the internet) for how cp is used.
2. Create a new directory named coding. Use nano to create a new file named tmp.
3. What is the name of your home directory?