Command Line Cheat Sheet

Hints to better use the command line

1) press tab to auto-complete commands and filenames!
2) command history is saved:
   Arrow-up/down shows you recent commands. Ctrl-r starts history-search: type beginning of command and use ctrl-r again to go to less recent ones
3) use cool hotkeys:
   Ctrl-e/a goes to end/start of line
   Ctrl-d deletes character at cursor position
   Ctrl-u/k cut everything before/after cursor, Ctrl-Y pastes it back ('yank')
   Ctrl-l clears screen
4) marking text with mouse and copy/paste them into terminal works like this: select text with mouse, bring cursor to where you want to insert, press mouse wheel. Also works: Ctrl-shift-c/v.

How to use * as Wildcard
 You can replace (parts of) filenames with the asterisk symbol '*'. Examples:
ls *.txt will display all files that have the suffix '.txt.'.
cp /bfg/data/*.jpg ~/ will copy all jpg-files in directory '/bfg/data' to your home directory.
find . -name "*surprise*" gives you all filenames in the current directory that contain the word 'surprise'.

Redirecting output...
Usually a command's output is given out on the command line. You can, however, redirect it...
... to a file
ls >> file.txt writes output of the ls-command into a new file or appends it to an existing one. ls > file.txt replaces existing files (use with care).
... to a another command (pipe)
ls | head pipes the output of the 'ls' command into the head command – only the first 10 objects of ls's output will be displayed.

Get help
 (which command to use, and how):
1) Google for it.
2) man *command* (exit by typing 'q')
3) *command* --help

List of useful commands

pwd	**P**rint **w**orking **d**irectory
ls -lha	List <u>all</u> files in a directory
cd ~	**C**hange **d**irectory to Home
mkdir, rmdir	Create / remove directories
cp, mv	Copy or move (rename) file
rm	Delete a file
cat, head, tail	Gives contents of file (parts)
less	Display file. spacebar and arrow keys to navigate, 'q' to quit, '/' to search
wc -l	Gives number of lines in file
column -ts ,	Nicely display comma-columns
grep	Search for pattern in file
echo	Gives out the argument, e.g. a word, or a variable like $USER
xdg-open	Use default program to open a binary file

Advanced (not covered in exercises):

xargs	Powerful in pipes to split input
sed	Stream editor to filter text
find ~ -name "*surprise*"	Find all files in Home directory that contain the word 'surprise' in their filename

Terminate a Command
Sometimes commands run longer than you expect and you would like to stop their execution. The exact shortcut depends on the system, but one of the following usually works:

ctrl + c   ctrl + z   Esc

Your User Name for this course: