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- Introduction to Bash Shell Scripting

Joel Frahm

joel.frahm@colorado.edu

<https://www.rc.colorado.edu>

Slides available for download at

[https://github.com/ResearchComputing/HPC Short Course Fall 2018](https://github.com/ResearchComputing/HPC_Short_Course_Fall_2018)

<https://tinyurl.com/rc-hpc-fall2018>

Adapted from a [presentation](#) by Tim Brown, RC, 12 Feb 2015

Intro Demonstration

- A quick intro to demonstrate how you might use shell scripts
- Demo: Making a tool to manage the output from “squeue”
 - Often 1000 lines on Summit
 - Hard to manage
 - Harder to make meaningful

Let's log in to RC

- (If you are not using your local system)
- To connect to a remote system, use Secure Shell (SSH)
- From Windows – GUI SSH app such as PuTTY
- From Linux or Mac OS X terminal, or Windows GUI such as PuTTY or Gitbash, ssh on the command line:

```
ssh <username>@login.rc.colorado.edu
```

- Once you are logged on, type the following:

```
ssh scompile # (optional, the login node is OK too)
```

```
cd /projects/$USER # (for RC users)
```

```
mkdir bash_tutorial
```

```
cd bash_tutorial
```

Overview

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Variables
- ▶ Quoting
- ▶ Command Substitution
- ▶ Arithmetic Expansion
- ▶ Tests
- ▶ Decisions (if)
- ▶ Loops (for, while)
- ▶ Arguments
- ▶ Functions
- ▶ Alternatives



Introduction

A shell is the environment in which commands are interpreted in Linux.

GNU/Linux provides various numerous shells; the most common one is the Bourne Again shell (bash).

Other common shells available on Linux systems include:

1) sh ; 2) csh ; 3) tcsh ; 4) ksh

Shell scripts are files containing collections of commands for Linux systems that can be executed as programs.

Shell scripts are powerful tools for performing many types of tasks.

- ▶ Can be programmed interactively, directly on the terminal.
- ▶ It can also be programmed by script files. The first line of the file must contain `#!/bin/bash`.
- ▶ The program loader recognizes the `#!` and will interpret the rest of the line (`/bin/bash`) as the interpreter program.
- ▶ If a line starts with `#`, it is a comment and is not run.

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

```
# the files in /tmp.
```

```
cd /tmp
```

```
ls | tail -n15
```

```
# cd - # not needed, why?
```

Shell to run

Comments

Change directories

Directory listing, last 15

Return to previous

Example

test.sh

- note: you can use “nano” to edit files in this tutorial.
- Just type “nano <filename>” at the prompt.
- You can edit text as you would in, e.g., MS Word.
- When you are finished, type ctrl-C and follow the prompts to save (type “Y”) and hit enter to keep the filename and exit.

Variables

- ▶ There are no data types.
- ▶ A variable can contain a number, a character, a string of characters.
- ▶ Shell variables are local.
- ▶ Environment variables are global.

```
$ PI=3.14159
```

```
$ name=(Joel Frahm)
```

```
$ echo ${name[0]}
```

```
$ Joel
```

```
$ echo $USER
```

```
$ frahm
```

Example

Local_vs_global.sh

Quoting

Quoting is used to remove the special meaning of certain characters or words to the shell.

<i>Quotation</i>	<i>Description</i>
'string'	Literally treat as string
"\$var"	Treat as string but interpret variables
{ }	Disambiguation

Creating a file with my username in it's name.

```
$ touch "output_${USER}.txt"
```

Command Substitution

Command substitution allows the output of a command to be substituted in place of the command name itself.

- ▶ By enclosing the command with `$ ()`.
- ▶ Legacy syntax is using backticks `` ``.

```
$ NOW=$(date +%Y-%m-%d)
```

```
$ echo $NOW
```

```
2018-10-09
```


Example

hello.sh and hello_world.txt

Arithmetic Expansion

Arithmetic expansion provides a mechanism for evaluating an arithmetic expression and substituting its value by enclosing the command with:

`$(())`

```
$ sqr_two=$(( 2 * 2 ))
```

```
$ echo ${sqr_two}
```

```
$ 4
```

Note that Bash only does integer math by default, however it is easy to do floating point math with the Bash calculator tool, 'bc'....

```
$ echo "5.6/9.4" | bc -l
```

```
$ .59574468085106382978
```

Tests I

Conditions are evaluated between `[]` or after the `test` word.

- ▶ File comparisons

- ▶ Exists `[-f file]`
- ▶ Executable `[-x file]`
- ▶ Newer than `[file1 -nt file2]`
- ▶ Older than `[file1 -ot file2]`

- ▶ Integer comparisons

- ▶ Equal `[num1 -eq num2]`
- ▶ Not Equal `[num1 -ne num2]`
- ▶ Less than `[num1 -lt num2]`
- ▶ Less or equal `[num1 -le num2]`
- ▶ Greater than `[num1 -ge num2]`

Tests II

► String comparisons

- Equal `[string1 = string2]`
- Not equal `[string1 != string2]`
- Contains `[string1 =~ string2]`
- Non zero `[-n string1]`
- Zero `[-z string1]`

► Combining tests

- And `[exp1 -a exp2]`
- Or `[exp1 -o exp2]`

A full list is in the `test` manual page (`man test`).

Decisions I

The `if` command executes a compound-list.

- Consisting of `if`, `elif`, `else` and `fi`.

```
x=$((date +%M))
if [ $x -gt 30 ] ; then
    echo "last half of the hour"
elif [ $x -lt 15 ] ; then
    echo "first quarter of the hour"
else
    echo "we're at ${x}"
fi
```

Example

test_for_file.sh

Decisions II

The `case` command executes a compound-list too.

- Consisting of `case` and `esac`.

```
x=10
case ${x} in
  1)  echo "one"      ;;
  5)  echo "five"     ;;
  10) echo "ten"      ;;
  *)  echo "unknown"  ;;
esac
```

Example

case_example.sh

Loops

There are two types of loops:

```
x=0
while [ $x -lt 10 ] ; do
    echo $x
    x=$(( $x + 1 )) done
```

```
list=(a b c)
for v in ${list} ; do
    echo $v
done
```

- ▶ `continue` will start the next iteration.
- ▶ `break` will exit the loop.

Example

while_example.sh

for_example.sh

dateloop_allbash.sh

Arguments I

It is often useful to pass arguments to a shell script.

- ▶ \$0 denotes the script name.
- ▶ \$1 denotes the first argument, \$2 the second, up to \${99}.
- ▶ \$# the total number of arguments.
- ▶ \$* all arguments as a single word
- ▶ \$@ all arguments as individual words.

Arguments II

```
#!/bin/bash
# Calculate the sine of the argument.

if [ $# -eq 1 ] ; then
    sine=$(echo "s($1)" | bc -l )
    echo "The sine of $1 is ${sine}"
else
    echo "Usage: $0 <number in radians>" 2>&1
    exit 1
fi
```


Example

calcsine.sh

Functions I

A function is a user-defined name that is used as a simple command to call a compound command with new positional parameters.

```
function_name () {  
    commands  
}
```

It is good practice to check the exit status of commands. I do this repeatedly in scripts, so a function is best to define it.

Functions II

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

```
e () {  
    echo $1;  
}
```

```
#now test
```

```
e Hello
```

```
e World
```

Example

function.sh

Additional Examples (if time allows)

cd to the "more" directory:

case_example_w_arg.sh

for_example_from_command.sh

for_example_list.sh

for_example_w_multiple_args.sh

Alternatives for Scripting

- ▶ `cshtcsh` C-shell (tcsh: updated version of csh).
- ▶ `ksh` Korn shell; related to sh/bash
- ▶ `perl` exceptional text manipulation and parsing.
- ▶ `python` excellent for scientific and numerical work.
- ▶ `ruby` general scripting.
- ▶ `make` building executables from source code

Thank you!

Please fill out the survey:

<http://tinyurl.com/curc-survey18>

Additional Bash learning resources:

<http://tldp.org/HOWTO/Bash-Prog-Intro-HOWTO.html> *(general)*

<https://www.shell-tips.com/2010/06/14/performing-math-calculation-in-bash/> *(math)*

Bash kernel for jupyter notebooks *(install anaconda first):*

https://github.com/takluyver/bash_kernel