

## COMMAND STRUCTURE

The general structure of UNIX command is

`cmd [options] [parameters]`

`cmd` is the command name (case sensitive, like everything in UNIX, that means `cmd` and `Cmd` are regarded as being different). Options consist of single letters and are introduced by a '-', like

`ls -l`

The `ls` command lists the files in the current directory. The options `-l` tells `ls` to use a long format. If you want specify several options (lets say a, b, c) you may use

`cmd -a -b -c`      or      `cmd -abc`

e.g.    `ls -l -a -t`      or      `ls -lat`

Most commands allows or required "parameters".

e.g.    `cp file1 file2`

copy file1 to file2

UNIX commands use a filename as arguments so that command can take input from the file.

e.g.    `ls -lat chap01 chap02 chap03`

`cp chap01 chap02 chap03`

`rm chap01 chap02`

The commands with its arguments and option is known as the "command line"

### Exceptions and variation:

- All commands doesn't compulsorily use options and arguments.
- Commands like `clear` don't accept any argument.
- The `who` and `date` commands may or may not be specified with arguments.