UNIX COMMANDS

Sébastien Renaut October 18, 2018

Contents

Exploration	1
General principles	2
Moving / removing / creating files	2
Examining files	2
Tricks	2
Working remotely	3
Other useful commands	3
Profile	3
Compression	3
Regular expressions	3
Combining commands: example	4
Install and run command line programs	4
bash	4

Exploration

Command	Meaning
ls	what's there
ls -1	with an option
ls -t -h	with more options
ls -thor	combining even more options
man ls	how to run command $(q = quit; d = next page; ; arrows & fn arrows = scrolling)$
pwd	where are we (full path)
cd	move somewhere else (default to home)
cd	move back
cd	move back, then forward
/Applications	
cd ~	move home
cd /	move to root

General principles

- All commands are short, perform simple tasks & are highly optimized (fast)
- Nearly all commands and options (~99%) work across Unix-based OS
- Commands can take (many) options
- Commands can be combined (more later)
- Many commands don't require any argument, some do
- command -option1 -option2 -optionN... parameter object
- Many commands output directly to terminal

Moving / removing / creating files

Command	Meaning
mv	move
ср	copy
rm	careful remove
rmdir	careful remove empty directory
rm -r	VERY careful remove recursively
mkdir	create empty directory
touch	create empty file
echo	print message to screen

Examining files

Command	Meaning
head	print first 10 lines to screen
tail	print last 10 lines to screen
less	print file line by line (use arrows + fn arrows to move up/down)
cat	print file content to screen
sort	sort a file
uniq	unique lines in a file
clear	clear terminal
WC	wordcount

Tricks

Command	Meaning
>	redirect
>>	append to file
1	pipe
*	anything (special character: for literal $*$, use $\setminus *$)
?	any character (special character)
Ctrl+A	go to beginning of line in terminal
Ctrl+E	end of line
tab key	autocomplete

Working remotely

Command	Meaning
ssh	secure shell (remote connection)
scp	secure copy (remote connection)

Other useful commands

Command	Meaning
chmod	change mode of file
sudo	superuser do
top	what's running
kill	kill a process
curl	get stuff from web (MACOS native) or wget (MACOS non-native)
history	see recent history
open	open a file
ln	symbolic link
which	where is the command
alias	create own commands
nano	edit text (whole file loaded in memory)
nano +123	specify location

Profile

• Let's look at .bash_profile to modify options (e.g. nano ~/.bash_profile)

Compression

Command	Meaning
gzip gzip -cd file.gz gunzip tar tar -xvzf file tar.gz	compression/decompression of files decompress to standard out (use a > redirect) compression/decompression of files compression/decompression of archives decompress a tar.gz (tarball)

Regular expressions

Command	Meaning
grep	regular expressions

grep -options 'pattern' file

Combining commands: example

- Let's look at the file examples/sequence.fasta
- print line 17 by piping head and tail
- Count lines starting with '>' (pipe grep and wc) Count unique lines starting with '>'(pipe grep, sort, uniq and wc)

Install and run command line programs

- $\bullet \ \ Let's \ look \ at \ this \ example: \ https://github.com/rec3141/rec-genome-tools/blob/master/bin/fastagrep.pl$
- It is a short perl script that greps sequences in a .fasta formatted file
- Copy-paste the text in a new file (e.g. touch fastagrep.pl,nano fastagrep.pl, paste and save)
- Make it executable (chmod +x fastagrep.pl)
- Let's look at it (./fastagrep.pl)
- Let's try it (./fastagrep.pl 'deserticola' examples/sequence.fasta)
- Let's symbolic link it so the computer knows where to find it (ln /Users/jerry/Dropbox/CSBQ/workshop/unix_workshop_'usr/local/bin/fastagrep.pl)

bash

• let's look at an example less examples/bash_cmd2