

Introduction of Bioinformatics: Command line examples

Unix command line interface

Vindows user:	macOS/Linux user:
• Scan the QR code below to install Cygwin/X.	Open the built-in Terminal app on your
• Search and Select nano package in Step 15:	Mac
Select packages	

Navigating

Command	Explanation	Example usage
pwd	Print working directory	pwd
cd	Change the working directory to the target directory	cd /path/of/directory
ls	List the contents of a directory	ls

Changing the file system

Command	Explanation	Example usage	
mkdir	Create a directory with a specific name	mkdir name_of_folder	
rmdir	Remove a directory with a specific name rmdir name_of_folder		
ср	Copy a file to the target directory	cp targeted_file /path/of/directory	
mv	Move a file to the target directory mv targeted_file /path/of/director		
rm	Remove a target file (once delete, no restore)	nce delete, no restore) rm workshop_script.txt	
nano	Text editor to create text file	nano workshop_script.txt	



Redirecting

Command	Explanation	Example usage
less	View the contents of a file on one page at a time	less workshop_script.txt
cat	Concatenate and display the content of a file	cat workshop_script.txt
head	Print the first 10 lines of each file head workshop_script.txt	
tail	Print the last 10 lines of each file	tail workshop_script.txt

Manual and help

Command Explanation		Example usage	
<pre><command/>help</pre>	Display help information for the usage of a command	lesshelp	
man <command/>	Open a manual page for a command	man less	

Other usages

Command usage	Explanation
cp filename_1 filename_2	Copy filename_1 to filename_2
mv filename_1 filename_2	Rename filename_1 to filename_2
ls -a	List all contents in a directory
ls -1	List the contents in a directory in long format