


Introduction of Bioinformatics: Command line examples

Unix command line interface

Windows user:	macOS/Linux user:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scan the QR code below to download Git BashDownload the "Windows Portable" one for installation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Open the built-in Terminal app in your laptop

Navigating

Command	Explanation	Example usage
pwd	Print working directory	pwd
cd	Change the working directory to the target directory	cd /path/of/directory
cd ~	Change the working directory to user's home directory	cd ~
cd ..	Change to parent directory of the current directory	cd ..
ls	List the contents of a directory	ls
ls -a	List all contents in a directory	ls -a
ls -l	List the contents in a directory in long format	ls -l

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
cp	Copy a file (to a directory or to another file)	cp output_1.txt /path/of/directory
mv	Move a file to the target directory	mv output_1.txt /path/of/directory
nano	Text editor to create text file	nano workshop_script.txt
rm	Remove a target file (once delete, no restore)	rm workshop_script.txt

Viewing

Command	Explanation	Example usage
less	View the contents of a file on one page at a time Press “Q” to exit	less workshop_script.txt
cat	Concatenate and display the content of a file	cat output_1.txt
head	Print the first 10 lines of each file	head workshop_script.txt
tail	Print the last 10 lines of each file	tail output_1.txt

Others

Command	Explanation	Example usage
cp file_1 file_2	Copy file_1 to file_2	cp output_1.txt output_2.txt
mv file_1 file_2	Rename file_1 to file_2	mv output_1.txt output_2.txt
sort	Sort or merge records (lines) of text files	sort output_1.txt
uniq	Filter out repeated lines in a file	uniq output_1.txt
>	Output redirection symbol, save the output of a command into a file.	uniq output_1.txt > output_2.txt

Manual and help

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