

# BIOL425 Comp Mol Bio

## Part 1. Git & Linux



Professor Weigang Qiu  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Hunter College of CUNY  
Spring 2026

# Version Control with Git

## (Chapter 2)

- I will use it to share lecture slides & codes

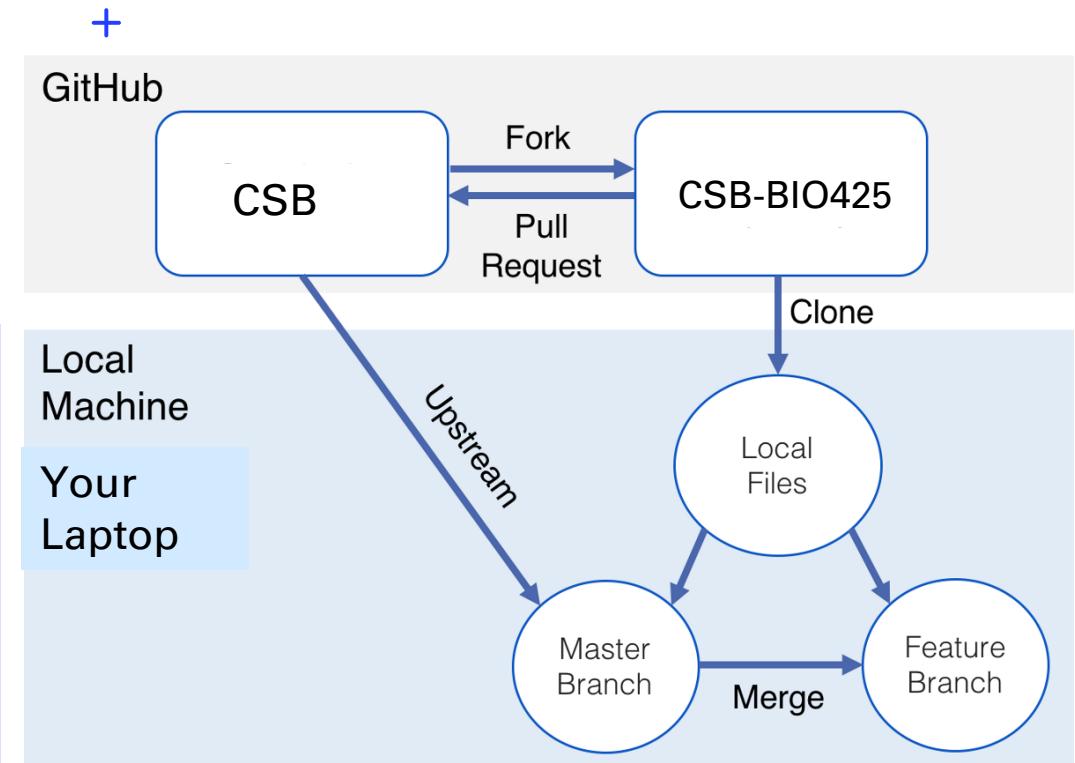
1. Create an account on GitHub

2. Download the course repository

```
git clone https://github.com/weigangq/CSB-BIOL425.git
```

3. Pull the latest versions

```
git
```



# UNIX Basics (Chapter 1)

+

-

## 1. Directory listing & shorthand

```
ls -lrvh      # long, reverse, timestamp, human-readable  
pwd          # present working directory  
~             # home directory  
.            # current directory  
..           # parent directory
```

## 2. Keyboard shorthand (for command editing)

```
Ctrl-a        # go to the beginning  
Ctrl-e        # go to the end  
Ctrl-l        # clear the screen  
Ctrl-u        # clear text before the cursor  
Ctrl-k        # clear text after the cursor  
Ctrl-c        # kill the (stalled) command
```

## 3. Directory navigation

```
cd ~/CSB-BIOL425/python/data      # absolute path  
Cd ../../unix/data                # relative path  
cd -                            # toggle 2 directories
```

## 4. Use auto-completion & command history

Tab	# NEVER type out a full filename
Arrow keys	# EDIT & NEVER retype a command
ls bad\ file\ name.txt	# NEVER use spaces in filenames

# Exercise 1

## Intermezzo 1.1

---

- (a) Go to your home directory.
  - (b) Navigate to the sandbox directory within the CSB/unix directory.
  - (c) Use a relative path to go to the data directory within the python directory.
  - (d) Use an absolute path to go to the sandbox directory within python.
  - (e) Return to the data directory within the python directory.
-

# UNIX Basics (Cont'd)

## 1. Copy files and directories

```
cp ~/CSB-BIOL425/unix/data/Buzzard2015_about.txt ~/CSB-BIOL425/unix/sandbox/          # use absolute path  
cd ~/CSB-BIOL425/unix/sandbox/  
cp ../data/Buzzard2015_about.txt .                                              # use relative path  
cp ../data/Buzzard2015_about.txt ./Buzzard2015_about2.txt                         # copy & rename  
cp -r .. /data .                                                               # recursive copy
```

## 2. Move or rename a file

```
mv Buzzard2015_about2.txt ../data/                                         # move file to a different directory  
mv ../data/Buzzard2015_about2.txt ../data/Buzzard2015_about_new.txt      # move and rename
```

## 3. Remove file or directory

```
touch new_file.txt               # create an empty file (and update timestamp)  
rm -i new_file.txt             # Proceed with caution; EXTREMELY destructive  
mkdir -p d1/d2/d3                # make nested directories  
rm -r d1                           # recursively remove a directory (and its sub-directories)
```

## 4. View & filter text files

```
cd ~/CSB-BIOL425/unix/data  
less Marra2014_data.fasta # spacebar to page down; b to page up; Q to quit  
cat *.txt                  # concatenate all ".txt" files  
wc *.txt                   # word count (all ".txt" files)  
head Gesquiere2011_data.csv # show top lines  
tail -n 2 Gesquiere2011_data.csv # show tail two lines  
sort Gesquiere2011_data.csv   # sort lines in a file (alphabetically)  
sort -n Gesquiere2011_data.csv # sort lines numerically
```

# Exercise 2

## Intermezzo 1.2

---

To familiarize yourself with these basic Unix commands, try the following:

- (a) Go to the data directory within CSB/unix.
  - (b) How many lines are in file Marra2014\_data.fasta?
  - (c) Create the empty file toremove.txt in the CSB/unix/sandbox directory without leaving the current directory.
  - (d) List the contents of the directory unix/sandbox.
  - (e) Remove the file toremove.txt.
-

# UNIX Advanced: “cut”

## 1. Redirect output (save output to file)

```
cd ~/CSB-BIOL425/unix/sandbox
echo "My first line" > test.txt
echo "My second line" >> test.txt
cat test.txt
ls -lrt ../data/Saavedra2013 > filelist.txt
cat filelist.txt
ls ../data/Saavedra2013 | wc -l
```

# redirect echo output to a new file  
# append a second line  
# show file content  
# list files and save the list to a file  
# show file  
# use pipe (|) to count # of files

## 2. Select columns using “cut”

```
cd ~/CSB-BIOL425/unix/data
head Pacifici2013_data.csv
head Pacifici2013_data.csv | cut -d ";" -f 1
head Pacifici2013_data.csv | cut -d ";" -f 1-4
cut -d ";" -f 2 Pacifici2013_data.csv | tail -n +2
cut -d ";" -f 2 Pacifici2013_data.csv | tail -n +2 | sort | uniq
```

# show top 10 lines  
# select 1<sup>st</sup> field, delimited by ";"  
# select columns 1-4  
# select 2<sup>nd</sup> column, skip header (1<sup>st</sup> line)  
# show unique lines

## Intermezzo 1.3

- If we order all species names (fifth column) of Pacifici2013\_data.csv in alphabetical order, which is the first species? Which is the last?
- How many families are represented in the database?

# UNIX Advanced: “tr” & “sed”

## 1. Character substitutions with “tr”

```
echo "ACTGGCAATT" | tr 'actg' 'ACTG'          # lower to upper cases  
echo "ACTGGCAATT" | tr 'a-z' 'A-Z'            # same as above  
echo "aaacttGGcaa" | tr -d 'a'                # delete all 'a'  
echo "aaacttGGcaa" | tr -s 'a'                # squeeze consecutive 'a'
```

## 2. Exercise: build a single command for the following tasks

```
cd ~/CSB-BIOL425/unix/sandbox  
1. Remove header from the file "../data/Pacifici2013_data.csv"  
2. Select columns 2-6 (Order, Family, Genus, Scientific_name, AdultBodyMass_g)  
3. Substitute ';' with a Tab ("\t")  
4. Sort by body mass, larger values first  
5. Save to a file "BodyM.tsv"
```

## 3. String substitution with “sed”

```
cd ~/CSB-BIOL425/unix/data  
cat Bb-filelist.txt | sed "s/Borrelia/Borreliella/"      # substitute a word  
cat Bb-filelist.txt | sed "s/Borrelia/Borreliella/g"    # substitute globally  
cat Bb-filelist.txt | sed "s/ NCBI //"                  # remove a string
```

## 4. Use wildcards to process multiple files

```
cd ~/CSB-BIOL425/unix/data/miRNA  
wc -l *.fasta           # count # lines for all ".fasta" files  
head -n 2 pp*           # show top two lines for all files starts with "pp"  
file *.???              # find file types for files with 3-letter extensions
```

**Exercise:** find file type for all FASTA files; remove the string “\_mir” from each line

# UNIX Advanced: “grep”

```
cd ~/CSB-BIOL425/unix/sandbox
grep "Vombatidae" BodyM.tsv
grep --color "Vombatidae" BodyM.tsv
grep -c "Vombatidae" BodyM.tsv
grep -w "Bos" BodyM.tsv
grep -i "Bos" BodyM.tsv
grep -B 2 -A 2 "Gorilla gorilla" BodyM.tsv
grep -n "Gorilla gorilla" BodyM.tsv
grep Gorilla BodyM.tsv | grep -v gorilla
grep -w "Gorilla\|Pan" BodyM.tsv
```

# filter lines containing a term  
# **color** the term  
# **count** # of lines containing term  
# match only a full **word**  
# case-**insensitive** match  
# include two lines **before** and **after**  
# show line **number** of the match  
# show lines without a match (**reverse**)  
# "\|" to match any of multiple strings

## Intermezzo 1.4

- Navigate to CSB/unix/sandbox. Without navigating to a different location, find a CSV file that contains Dalziel in its file name and is located within the CSB directory. Copy this file to the Unix sandbox.
- Print the first few lines on the screen to check the structure of the data. List all unique cities in column loc (omit the header). How often does each city occur in the data set?
- The fourth column reports cases of measles. What is the maximum number of cases reported for Washington, DC?
- What is the maximum number of reported measles cases in the entire data set? Where did this occur?

```
find ~/CSB-BIOL425 -name
"*\bDalziel\b*"
```

# UNIX Advanced: “for” loops & BASH scripting

## 1. Loop through files, strings, and numbers

```
cd ~/CSB-BIOL425/unix/data/miRNA          # microRNA data
for file in *.fasta; do head -n 2 $file; done # show top 2 lines for each fasta file
# find three miRNA across fasta files and save each to a new fasta file:
for miR in miR-208a miR-564 miR-3170; do grep $miR -A1 *.fasta > $miR.fasta; done
# increment an index:
for i in {1..10}; do echo $i; done          # increment by 1
for i in {1..10..2}; do echo $i; done         # increment by 2
```

## 2. BASH scripting

- 1) Download, install & start **an editor** (vi, emacs, gedit, NotePad++)
- 2) cd ~/CSB-BIOL425/unix/sandbox
- 3) Paste the following & save as “extract\_body\_mass.bash”: tail -n +2  
  ../data/Pacifci2013\_data.csv | cut -d ";" -f 2-6 | tr ";" "\t" | sort -r -n -k 6 >  
  BodyM.tsv
- 4) bash extract\_body\_mass.bash # Run script
- 5) Add the bash path to the beginning & save: #!/usr/bin/env bash
- 6) chmod +x extract\_body\_mass.bash # change permission to make executable
- 7) ./extract\_body\_mass.bash # Run script again
- 8) Make input and output **filenames as arguments**; Add comments (see next slide)
- 9) ./extract\_body\_mass.bash ../data/Pacifci2013\_data.csv BodyM.tsv

```
weigang@dell-all-in-one: /mr      + | x
File Edit Options Buffers Tools Sh-Script Help
#!/usr/bin/env bash

#####
# function of script:
# take a CSV file delimited by ";" (first argument)
# remove the header
# make tab separated
# sort according to the 6th (numeric) column
# in descending order
# redirect to a file (second argument)

# Author: Weigang Qiu
# Date: Jan 30, 2023
#####

# input file name as the 1st argument
in_file=$1

# output filename as the 2nd argument
out_file=$2

# remove the header
tail -n +2 $1 > $1.tmp1

# extract columns
cut -d ";" -f 2-6 $1.tmp1 > $1.tmp2

# make tab separated
tr ";" "\t" < $1.tmp2 > $1.tmp3

# sort and redirect to output
sort -r -n -k 6 $1.tmp3 > $2

# remove temporary, intermediate files
rm $1.tmp*

exit;
```

Add the bash interpreter path as the first line

Add comments as documentation

Make input and output as arguments (Do **not** hard-code filenames within a script)

# save; make it executable  
chmod +x extract\_body\_mass.bash

# Run with arguments:  
. ./extract\_body\_mass.bash  
..../data/Pacifici2013\_data.csv  
BodyM.tsv

# SUMMARY

- Run “git pull” to get the latest files from the course repository
- Unix command line interface (CLI):
  - `$ command [--options] [arguments]`
  - High efficiency (faster than Python)
  - Faster than graphic user interface (GUI, point-and-click)
  - No need for programming for most of the text-wrangling
- Next week: Quiz #1, based on the following 4 exercises
  - 1.10.1 Next generation sequencing data
  - 1.10.2 Hormone levels in Baboons
  - 1.10.3 Plant-pollinator networks
  - 1.10.4. Data explorer