

UNIX CHEAT SHEET

Command	Translation	Examples
cd	change directory	cd /absolute/path/of/the/directory/ Go to the home directory by typing simply cd or cd ~ Go up (back) a directory by typing cd ..
pwd	print working directory	pwd
mkdir	make directory	mkdir newDirectory creates newDirectory in your current directory Make a directory one level up with mkdir ../newDirectory
cp	copy	cp file.txt newfile.txt (and file.txt will still exist!)
mv	move	mv file.txt newfile.txt (but file.txt will <i>no longer</i> exist!)
rm	remove	rm file.txt removes file.txt rm -r directoryname/ removes the directory and all files within
ls	list	ls *.txt lists all .txt files in current directory ls -a lists all files including hidden ones in the current directory ls -l lists all files in current directory including file sizes and timestamps ls -lh does the same but changes file size format to be human-readable ls ../ lists files in the directory above the current one
man	manual	man ls opens the manual for command ls (use q to escape page)
grep	global regular expression parser	grep ">" seqs.fasta pulls out all sequence names in a fasta file grep -c ">" seqs.fasta counts the number of those sequences
cat	concatenate	cat seqs.fasta prints the contents of seqs.fasta to the screen (ie stdout)
head	head	head seqs.fasta prints the first 10 lines of the file head -n 3 seqs.fasta prints first 3 lines
tail	tail	tail seqs.fasta prints the last 10 lines of the file tail -n 3 seqs.fasta prints last 3 lines
wc	word count	wc filename.txt shows the number of new lines, number of words, and number of characters wc -l filename.txt shows only the number of new lines wc -c filename.txt shows only the number of characters
sort	sort	sort filename.txt sorts file and prints output
uniq	unique	uniq -u filename.txt shows only unique elements of a list (must use sort command first to cluster repeats)

Shortcut	Use
Ctrl + C	kills current process
Ctrl + L (or clear)	clears screen
Ctrl + A	Go to the beginning of the line
Ctrl + E	Go to the end of the line
Ctrl + U	Clears the line before the cursor position
Ctrl + K	Clear the line after the cursor
*	wildcard character
tab	completes word
Up Arrow	call last command
.	current directory
..	one level up
~	home
>	redirects stdout to a file, <i>overwriting</i> file if it already exists
>>	redirects stdout to a file, <i>appending</i> to the end of file if it already exists
	redirects stdout to become stdin for next command