

# UNIX essentials (hands-on)

- overview: **Unix, tcsh, AFNI**
- the directory tree
- basic shell commands (class practice)
- running programs
- the shell (using the T-shell)
  - command line processing
  - special characters
  - command types
  - shell, array and environment variables
  - wildcards
  - shell scripts
  - shell commands
  - pipes and redirection
- OS commands
- special files

## • Overview: Unix, T-shell, AFNI

### → Unix

- a type of operating system (a standard), first developed in 1969
- examples: Solaris, OpenSolaris, Irix, AIX, HP-UX, OS X, Linux, FreeBSD
  - actually, Linux and FreeBSD are not Unix compliant, but are very similar
- has graphical environment, but a strength is in command-line capabilities
- hundreds of commands, minimum, thousands on most systems

### → tcsh (T-shell)

- a Unix shell: a command-line interpreter
  - when user types a command and hits **Enter**, the shell processes that command
- just one of the common Unix programs (a single file: /bin/tcsh)
- other Unix shells: sh, bash, csh, ksh, zsh
- has own syntax and sub-commands
- not as powerful as bash, but more simple and readable

### → AFNI

- a suite of data analysis tools
- more than 450 programs, scripts and plugins
- free and open source

- **Overview: Unix, T-shell, AFNI** - separate commands and syntax
  - **Unix** : sample commands and syntax
    - commands: **ls, cat, less, mv, cp, date, ssh, vi, rm**
    - syntax: variables (\$), quotes (' , " , `), wildcards (\*, ?, []), pipes ( | ), redirection ( > )
    - comments: part of any Unix-based system (e.g. **Solaris, Linux, OS X**)  
command help from 'man' pages (or a book), e.g. **man less**
  - **tcsh** (T-shell) : sample commands and syntax
    - commands: **cd, set, setenv, if, foreach, alias, history**
    - syntax: home directories (~), history (!), jobs (%), redirecting **stderr (>&)**
    - comments: single installed program, command help from 'man tcsh' (or a book)
  - **AFNI** : sample commands and syntax
    - commands: **afni, suma, 3dcalc, afni\_proc.py, 3dDeconvolve**
    - syntax: sub-brick selection ([ \$ ]) - note: these characters appear elsewhere
    - comments: installed suite of programs, command help from -help output  
e.g. **afni\_proc.py -help**  
e.g. **afni\_proc.py -help | less**

- **The Directory Tree** (the organization of the file system)
  - directories contain files and/or directories
  - / : means either the root directory, or a directory separator
    - consider **/home/afniuser/AFNI\_data6 SurfData/SUMA**
      - getting to **SurfData/SUMA** requires starting from **suma\_demo**
  - an "absolute" pathname begins with '/', a "relative" pathname does not
    - a relative pathname depends on where you start from
  - every directory has a parent directory
    - the relative pathname for the parent directory is **'..'**
      - what does **"cd .."** do?
    - the relative pathname for the current directory is **'.'**
      - what does **"cd ."** do?
    - consider **"./run\_this\_script"**, **"cp ~/file ."**, **"ls ../suma\_demo"**
  - many commands can be used to return to the home directory (of "afniuser")
    - **cd, cd /home/afniuser, cd \$HOME, cd ~, cd ~afniuser**
      - note the 2 special characters, **'~'** and **'\$'**
  - while you work, keep your location within the directory tree in mind

## Basic Shell Commands: open a terminal window and practice

1. Upon opening a new terminal window, what directory am I in? (**pwd**)
2. Approximately how many files and directories are here? (**ls**, **ls -l**, **ls -al**)
3. How big are these programs (as files): **tcsh**, **afni**, **.cshrc**, **s11.proc.FT**?  
**ls -l /bin/tcsh**, **ls -l abin/afni**, **ls -l .cshrc**,  
**cd AFNI\_data6/FT\_analysis**, **ls -l**, **wc s11.proc.FT**
4. The last 2 are actually scripts, look at them. (**cat**, **gedit**, **nedit**)
5. What polynomial order is used for the baseline in 3dDeconvolve in **s11.proc.FT**?  
Search for "polort" in the 3dDeconvolve command. (**less s11.proc.FT**)  
(consider keystrokes in **less**: **Enter**, **Space**, **b**, **g**, **G**, **h**, **/**, **n**, **N**, **q**  
--> down line, page, up page, go to top, bottom, help, search, next, next-up, quit)
6. Why are the line continuation characters ('\') useful? (**less s11.proc.FT**)  
--> for readability, note: must be LAST character on line
7. How many runs of EPI data were used? (search for **3dTcat**)
8. What are the arguments to the **within()** function in **3dcalc**?  
**3dcalc -help | less** (use '/' and 'n' to search for occurrences of 'within')
9. If we run **afni**, how can we still type commands (without opening another terminal)?  
(**ctrl-z**, **bg**) (also try: **afni &**)

## • Running Programs

- a program is something that gets "executed", or "run"
- the first element of a command line is generally a program (followed by a space)
- most shells are case sensitive when processing a command
- command examples (options usually start with a '-') :
  - **/bin/ls \$HOME/AFNI\_data6**
  - **count -digits 2 1 10**
- script: an interpreted program (interpreted by some other program)
  - e.g. shell script, javascript, perl script, afni startup script
  - recall: **less ~/AFNI\_data6/FT\_analysis/s11.proc.FT**
- create a script (text file) containing a few commands: (**gedit my.script**)

```
echo "hello there"  
ls -a  
count 7 11
```
- execute the script in a few ways

```
tcsh my.script  
bash my.script  
./my.script  
chmod 755 my.script  
./my.script
```

<--- script should start with '#!/bin/tcsh', for example

- **The Shell** (focusing on the T-shell)
  - a shell is a command interpreter (case and syntax sensitive)
  - examples: tcsh, csh, sh, bash, ksh, zsh, wish, tclsh, rsh, ssh
  - command: **echo \$0**
  - the T-shell: **/bin/tcsh**
    - an enhanced C-shell (**csh**), which has C programming style syntax
- **Command Line Processing** (simplified outline):
  - 1) evaluate special characters, such as: `~ $ & * ? \ ' " ` |`
  - 2) decide which program to execute (more on this later)
    - absolute pathname? alias? shell command? in the **\$path?**
  - 3) execute appropriate program, passing to it the parameter list
  - 4) save the execution status in the **\$status** variable (0 is considered success)
  - tcsh has automatic filename completion using the Tab key
    - type "**ls suma**" and hit the *Tab* key, watch what happens, and hit *Enter*
    - type "**ls AF**" and hit the *Tab* key, note what happens
    - note: this requires setting the shell variable, **filec**

- **Special Characters** (some of them, and some of their uses)
  - ~ : the current user's home directory (e.g. `/home/afniuser`), same as `$HOME`
  - \$ : used to access a variable (e.g. `$path`)
  - & : used to put a command in the background (e.g. `afni &`)
  - \* : wildcard, matching zero or more characters (e.g. `echo AFNI_da*`)
  - ? : wildcard, matching exactly one character (e.g. `ls AFNI_data?`)
  - \ : command line continuation (must be the last character on the line)
  - ' : the shell will not evaluate most special characters contained within these quotes  
 (e.g. `echo '$HOME'` : will output `$HOME`, not `/home/afniuser`)  
 (e.g. `3dbucket -prefix small_func 'func_slim+orig[0,2..4]'`)
  - " : the shell will evaluate `$variables` and ``commands`` contained within these  
 (e.g. `echo "[*] my home dir is $HOME"`)  
 (e.g. `echo "the numbers are 'count 7 12'"`)
  - ` : execute the command contained within these quotes, and replace the quoted part with the output of the contained command  
 (e.g. `echo "the numbers are `count 7 12`"`)



- **Command Types**

- the shell must decide what type of command it has:

- pathname for a program: execute that program
    - alias: apply any alias(es) then start over (decide on which program to run)
    - shell command: part of the **/bin/tcsh** program
    - check the **\$PATH** directories for the program

- consider the commands:

- ```
/bin/ls AFNI_data6/afni
```

- ```
ls AFNI_data6/afni
```

- ```
cd AFNI_data6/afni
```

- ```
wc ~/AFNI_data6/afni/epi_r1_ideal.1D
```

- the "which" command shows where the shell gets a command from:

- ```
which ls
```

- ```
which cd
```

- ```
which wc
```

- **Shell Variables: The PATH Variable**

- a list of directories to be searched for a given program to be run from

- the **\$path** and **\$PATH** variables are identical, but are represented differently

- commands: 

```
echo $PATH
```

- ```
echo $path
```

- ```
cat ~/.cshrc
```

## • Shell Variables

- shell variables are variables that are stored in, and affect the shell
- all variables are stored as strings (or as arrays of strings)
- a variable is accessed via the '\$' character
- the '**echo**' command: echo the line after processing any special characters
  - command: **echo my home dir, \$HOME, holds ~/\***
- the '**set**' command: set or assign values to one or more variables
  - without arguments: '**set**' displays all variables, along with any values
  - '**set**' takes a list of variables to set, possibly with values
  - consider the commands:

```
set food  
echo $food  
set food = pickle  
echo $food  
set food eat = chocolate donut (emphasis: food eat = chocolate donut)  
set  
set food = eat chocolate donut  
set food = "eat chocolate donut"  
echo $food
```

→ variables can be assigned the result of a numerical computation using the '@' command, however only integer arithmetic is allowed

- commands: **set value1 = 17**  
**@ value2 = \$value1 \* 2 + 6**  
**echo value2 = \$value2**

## • Array Variables

- array variables are set using ( )
- consider the commands:

```
set stuff = ( 11 12 13 seven 15 )
echo $stuff
echo $stuff[1]
echo $stuff[2-4]
echo $stuff[8]
set stuff = ( hi $stuff $food )
echo $stuff
echo $path
cat ~/.cshrc
```

- **Environment Variables**

- similar to shell variables, but their values will propagate to children shells
- by convention, these variables are all upper-case (though it is not required)
- similarly, shell variables are generally all lower-case
- set environment variables using "**setenv**" (as opposed to the "**set**" command)
- without any parameters, the "**setenv**" command will display all variables
- the "**setenv**" command will only set or assign one variable at a time
- the format for the command to set a value is (without any '=' sign):

**setenv VARIABLE value**

- commands:

```
setenv MY_NAME Elvis
```

```
echo $MY_NAME
```

```
echo $path
```

```
echo $PATH
```

```
echo $HOME
```

```
setenv
```

## • Wildcards

→ used for shell-attempted filename matching

→ special characters for wildcards:

**\***, **?**, **[**, **]**, **^**

**\*** : matches any string of zero or more characters

(special case: a lone \* will not match files starting with '.')

**?** : matches exactly one character

**[ ]** : matches any single character within the square brackets

**[^ ]** : matches any single character EXCEPT for those within the brackets

→ commands (run from the **AFNI\_data6/EPI\_run1** directory):

```
ls
```

```
ls *
```

```
ls -a
```

```
ls 8*3.dcm
```

```
ls 8*0*3.dcm
```

```
ls 8*00?3.dcm
```

```
ls 8*00[23].dcm
```

```
ls 8*00[^23].dcm
```

## • Shell Scripts

- a text file, a sequence of shell commands
- the '\' character can be used for line continuation (for readability)
  - for that purpose, it must be the last character on the line (including spaces)
- executing shell scripts, 3 methods:
  - 1) **./filename** : (safest) execute according to the top **"#!program"**
    - if no such line, usually executed via **bash** (a potential error)
    - the file must have execute permissions (see '**ls -l**', '**chmod**')
  - 2) **tcsh filename** : execute as t-shell commands
  - 3) **source filename** : execute using current shell
    - affects current environment
    - this method should be used only when that is the intention (e.g. **.cshrc**)
- recall **~/AFNI\_data6/FT\_analysis/s11.proc.FT**
- **create a script (text file) called my.script containing a few commands**
- recall: execute the script in a few ways
  - tcsh my.script**
  - bash my.script**
  - ./my.script**
  - chmod 755 my.script**
  - ./my.script** <--- script should start with **'#!/bin/tcsh'**, for example

- **Some Shell Commands** (handled by the shell)

**cd** : change working directory  
**pwd** : display the present working directory  
**set** : set variables or assign string values to variables  
**@** : set a variable to the results of an integral computation  
**alias** : display or create an alias  
(e.g. **alias hi 'echo hello there'** )  
**bg** : put a process in the background (usually after ctrl-z)  
**fg** : put a process in the foreground  
**exit** : terminate the shell  
**setenv** : set environment variables  
**source** : execute a script within the current shell environment

- special keystrokes (to use while a process is running)

**ctrl-c** : send an interrupt signal to the current process  
**ctrl-z** : send a suspend signal to the current process

- **More Shell Commands: basic flow control**

→ commands: `if`, `else`, `endif`, `while`, `end`, `foreach`

---

```
if ( $user == "elvis" ) then
    echo 'the king lives'
endif
```

---

```
set value = 5
set fact = 1
while ( $value > 0 )
    @ fact = $fact * $value
    @ value -= 1
end
echo 5 factorial = $fact
```

---

```
foreach value ( 1 2 3 four eight 11 )
    echo the current value is $value
end
```

---

```
foreach file ( I.*3 )
    ls -l $file
end
```



## • Pipes and Redirection

> : redirect program output (**stdout**) to a file

e.g. **3dmerge -help > 3dmerge.help**

**3dmerge -pickle > 3dmerge.help**

>& : redirect all output (both **stdout** and **stderr**) to a file

e.g. **3dmerge -pickle >& 3dmerge.pickle**

e.g. **tcsh my.script >& script.output**

>> : append program output to a file

e.g. **echo "remember to feed the cat" >> script.output**

| : pipe standard output to the input of another program

e.g. **3dDeconvolve -help | less**

|& : include **stderr** in the pipe

e.g. **tcsh -x my.big.script |& tee script.output**

- run the script (echo commands to terminal before executing)
- send all output to the **tee** program
- the **tee** program duplicates its input, sending the output to both the terminal and the given file (**script.output**)
- you can see the output, but it is also stored for future analysis

## • Some OS Commands

- ls** : list the contents of a directory
  - \* **cat** : concatenate files to the terminal (print them to the screen)
  - \* **more** : a file perusal program - view files one page at a time
  - \* **less** : a better file perusal program (type **less**, get more)
  - echo** : echo command to terminal window
  - man** : on-line manuals for many OS commands (and library functions)
    - this uses a "**less**" interface to display the information
    - e.g. consider **man** on : **ls**, **less**, **man**, **tcsh**, **afni**
  - \* **head** : display the top lines of a file (default = 10)
    - e.g. **3dinfo func\_slim+orig | head -25**
  - \* **tail** : display the bottom lines of a file (default = 10)
    - e.g. **tail ideal\_r1.1D**
  - \* **wc** : word count - count characters, words and lines (of a file)
  - cp** : copy files and directories to a new location
  - mv** : rename a file, or move files and directories
  - rm** : remove files and/or directories (BE CAREFUL - no recovery)
    - e.g. **rm junk.file**
    - e.g. **rm -r bad.directory**
- \* denotes a 'filter' program, which can take input from a file or from **stdin**

\* **grep** : print lines from a file that match the given pattern

e.g. **grep path ~/.cshrc**

e.g. **ls ~/abin | grep -i vol**

e.g. from the output of "**3dVol2Surf -help**" show lines which contain 'surf', but not 'surface', then remove duplicates:

```
3dVol2Surf -help | grep surf | grep -v surface | sort | uniq
```

- **Some Special Files (in the home directory)**

**.cshrc** : c-shell startup file ("csh run commands")

- set aliases
- adjust the path
- set shell and environment variables

**.afnirc** : **AFNI** startup file

**.sumarc** : **suma** startup file

**.login** : commands run at the start of a login shell (e.g. a terminal window)

**.logout** : commands run before exiting a login shell

**.bashrc** : bash startup file (in case **bash** your login shell)