

# Basic UNIX commands

Please remember that UNIX is case-sensitive.

## Files

- **ls** --- lists your files
- **ls -l** --- lists your files in 'long format', which contains lots of useful information, e.g. the exact size of the file, who owns the file and who has the right to look at it, and when it was last modified.
- **ls -a** --- lists all files, including the ones whose filenames begin in a dot, which you do not always want to see.  
There are many more options, for example to list files by size, by date, recursively etc.
- **mv filename1 filename2** --- moves a file (i.e. gives it a different name, or moves it into a different directory (see below))
- **cp filename1 filename2** --- copies a file
- **rm filename** --- removes a file. It is wise to use the option `rm -i`, which will ask you for confirmation before actually deleting anything. You can make this your default by making an alias in your `.cshrc` file.
- **diff filename1 filename2** --- compares files, and shows where they differ
- **wc filename** --- tells you how many lines, words, and characters there are in a file

## Directories

Directories, like folders on a Macintosh, are used to group files together in a hierarchical structure.

- **mkdir dirname** --- make a new directory
- **cd dirname** --- change directory. You basically 'go' to another directory, and you will see the files in that directory when you do 'ls'. You always start out in your 'home directory', and you can get back there by typing 'cd' without arguments. 'cd ..' will get you one level up from your current position. You don't have to walk along step by step - you can make big leaps or avoid walking around by specifying pathnames.
- **pwd** --- tells you where you currently are.