

Useful Terminal Commands

Dr. David Urminky
School of Physics and Astronomy
Rochester Institute of Technology

Where are you

when using the command line it is always important to know what directory (folder) you are in.

From the command line type **pwd**

```
djusps ~: pwd
```

```
/Users/djusps
```

The command will display the current directory you are in. In this case it is /Users/djusps

How to make a directory

To create a directory you type `mkdir`

From the command line type **`mkdir`**

```
djusps ~: mkdir my_python/
```

This creates the directory `my_python` on the computer.

How to get there

To get from one folder to another you use the **cd** (**c**hange **d**irectory) command.

From the command line type **cd**

```
cd my_python/
```

You are now in the directory my_python.

to confirm this use the **pwd** command.cd my_python/

What is in the directory

To see what is in the directory we use the **ls** command

From the command line type

```
man ls > readme
```

This creates a file called readme (don't worry exactly what is going on here)

now type

```
ls
```

you should now see the files listed in the directory (should be only one called readme)

To create a subdirectory

To create a subdirectory use the mkdir directory

```
mkdir temp
```

```
my_python: cd temp
```

you should now be in the directory temp.

To go back upwards in the directory structure type

```
cd ../
```

the ../ following cd stands for the parent directory my_python. Now you should be in the my_python directory

To delete a file

To delete a file we use the **rm**
from the my_python folder type

```
rm readme
```

```
ls
```

the list command should display only the subdirectory temp we created. to delete the subdirectory type

```
rm -r temp/
```

```
ls
```

The directory my_python should be empty now.

Get help man

To get information on how to use a command you use the **man** command

Type

man ls

and see what happens. You should get a bunch of information about the **ls** command.