

## Shells

- Shells are command interpreters
  - they allow interactive users to execute the commands.
  - typically a command causes another program to be run
  - shells may have a graphical (point-and-click) interface
    - much easier for naive users
    - much less powerful & not covered in this course
- command-line shells are programmable, powerful tools for expert users
- **bash** is the most popular used shell for unix-like systems
  - other significant unix-like shells include : **dash**, **ash**, **zsh**, **fish**
- we will cover the core features provided by most shells
  - essentially the POSIX standard shell features
- we use **dash** for scripts in this course
  - **dash** implements essentially the POSIX standard shell features
  - **bash** & **zsh** implement superset of POSIX shell features
  - **ash**, part of **busybox**, implements more-or-less the POSIX standard shell features
  - so scripts written for **dash** usually compatible with with **bash** & **zsh**, **ash**

## What Shells Do

- Unix shells have the same basic mode of operation:

loop

```
if (interactive) print a prompt
read a line of user input
apply transformations to line
split line into words using whitespace
use first word in line as command name
execute command, passing other words as arguments
```

end loop

- shells can also be run with commands in a file
- shells are programming languages
- shells have design decisions to suit interactive use
  - e.g. variables don't have to be initialized or declared
  - these decisions not ideal for programming in Shell
  - in other words there have to be design compromises

- a series of **transformations** are applied to Shell input lines
  - 1 tilde expansion, e.g. `~z1234567` → `/home/z1234567`
  - 2 parameter and variable expansion, e.g. `$HOME` → `/home/z1234567`
  - 3 arithmetic expansion, e.g. `$(6 * 7)` → `42`
  - 4 command substitution, e.g. `$(whoami)` → `z1234567`
  - 5 word splitting - line is broken up on white-space
  - 6 filename expansion (globbing), e.g. `*.c` → `main.c i.c`
  - 7 I/O redirection e.g. `<i.txt` → stdin replaced with stream from `i.txt`
  - 8 first word used as program name, other words passed as arguments
- order of these transformation is important!
- not understanding order is a common source of bugs & security holes
  - shell is better-avoided if security is significant concern
- directories in **PATH** searched for program name

## echo: print arguments to stdout

- **echo** prints its arguments to stdout
- mainly used in scripts, but also useful when exploring shell behaviour
- **echo** is often built in to shells for efficiency, but also provided by `/bin/echo`
- see also `/usr/bin/printf`
- Two useful **echo** options:

---

**-n** do not output a trailing newline  
**-e** enable interpretation of backslash escapes (on by default in dash)

---

```
$ echo Hello Andrew
Hello Andrew
$ echo '\n'
\n
$ echo -e '\n'

$ echo -n Hello Andrew
Hello Andrew$
```

## echo: implemented in Python

```
import sys
def main():
    """
    print arguments to stdout
    """
    print(' '.join(sys.argv[1:]))
```

[source code for echo.py](#)

```
// print arguments to stdout
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    for (int i = 1; i < argc; i++) {
        if (i > 1) {
            fputc(' ', stdout);
        }
        fputs(argv[i], stdout);
    }
    fputc('\n', stdout);
    return 0;
}
```

[source code for echo.c](#)

## Shell Variables

- shell variables are untyped - consider them as strings
  - note that **1** is equivalent to “**1**”
- shell variables are not declared
- shell variables do not need initialization
  - initial value is the empty string
- one scope - no local variables
  - except sub-shells & functions (sort-of)
  - changes to variables in sub-shells have no effect outside sub-shell
  - components of pipeline executed in sub-shell
- **\$name** replaced with value of variable **name**
- **name=value** assigns **value** to variable **name**
  - note: no spaces around =

## **\$(command)** - command expansion:

- **\$(command)** is evaluated by running **command**
- stdout is captured from **command**
  - except trailing newlines are not captured
- **\$(command)** is replaced with the entire captured stdout
  - surround with "" to prevent white-space possibly being lost (due to word-splitting)
- **'command'** (backticks) is equivalent to **\$(command)**
  - backticks is original syntax, so widely used
  - nesting of backticks is problematic

For example:

```
$ now="$(date)"
$ echo $now
Sun 23 Jun 1912 02:31:00 GMT
$
```

## ' ' - Single Quotes

- single quotes ' ' group the characters within into a single word
  - no characters interpreted specially inside single quotes
  - variables, commands and arithmetic are not expanded inside single quotes
  - globbing and word-splitting does not occur inside double quotes
  - a single quote can not occur within single quotes
  - you can put a double quote between single-quotes

For example:

```
$ echo '*** !@#%$^&*(){}[]:;<>?,./` ***'
*** !@#%$^&*(){}[]:;<>?,./` ***
$ echo 'this is "normal"'
this is "normal"
```

## "" - Double Quotes

- double quotes "" group the characters within into a single word
  - variables, commands and arithmetic are expanded inside double quotes
  - backslash can be used to escape \$ " "" " \
  - other characters not interpreted specially inside double quotes
  - globbing and word-splitting does not occur inside double quotes
  - you can put a single quote between double-quotes

For example:

```
$ answer=42
$ echo "The answer is $answer."
The answer is 42.
$ echo 'The answer is $answer.'
The answer is $answer.
$ echo "time's up"
time's up
$ echo "*   *"
*   *
```

## << - here documents

- <<**word** called a here document
- following lines until **word** specify multi-line string as command input
- variables and commands expanded - same as double quotes
- <<'**word**' variables and commands not expanded - same as single quotes
- <<-**word** removes leading tabs from each line, allowing indentation within scripts

```
$ name=Andrew
$ tr a-z A-Z <<END-MARKER
Hello $name
How are you
Good bye
END-MARKER
HELLO ANDREW
HOW ARE YOU
GOOD BYE
```

- `$(expression)` is evaluated as an arithmetic expression
  - **expression** is evaluated as C-like integer arithmetic
  - and is replaced with the result
  - the `$` on variables can be omitted in expressions
- shell arithmetic implementation slow compared to e.g. C
  - significant overhead converting to/from strings
- older scripts may use the separate program **expr** for arithmetic

For example:

```
$ x=8
$ answer=$((x*x - 3*x + 2))
$ echo $answer
42
```

- Note that variables in arithmetic expressions are recursively evaluated

## word splitting

- coders not understanding how shells split words is a frequent source of bugs

```
# inspect how shell splits lines into program arguments (argv)
import sys
print(f'sys.argv = {sys.argv}')
```

[source code for print\\_argv.py](#)

```
$ v=' '
$ ./print_argv.py $v
sys.argv = ['./print_argv.py']
$ ./print_argv.py "$v"
sys.argv = ['./print_argv.py', ' ']
$ w=' xx yy zzzz '
$ ./print_argv.py $w
sys.argv = ['./print_argv.py', 'xx', 'yy', 'zzzz']
$ ./print_argv.py "$w"
sys.argv = ['./print_argv.py', ' xx yy zzzz ']
```

## \*?[]! - pathname globbing

- `*?[]!` characters cause a word to be matched against pathnames
  - confusingly similar to regexes - but much less powerful
- `*` matches 0 or more of **any** character - equivalent to regex `.*`
- `?` matches any **one** characters - equivalent to regex `.`
- `[characters]` matches **1** of **characters** - same as regex `[]`
- `[!characters]` matches **1** character not in **characters** - same as regex `[^]`
- if no pathname matches the word is unchanged
- aside: globbing also available in Python, Perl, C & other languages

```
$ echo *.[ch]
functions.c functions.h i.h main.c
$ ./print_argv.py *.[ch]
['./print_argv.py', 'functions.c', 'functions.h', 'i.h', 'main.c']
$ ./print_argv.py '*.[ch]'
['./print_argv.py', '*.[ch]']
$ ./print_argv.py "*.[ch]"
['./print_argv.py', '*.[ch]']
$ ./print_argv.py *.zzzzz
['./print_argv.py', '*.zzzzz']
```

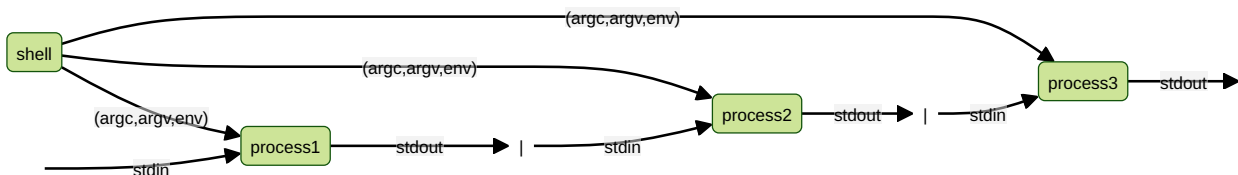
- stdin, stdout & stderr for a command can be directed to/from files

<b>&lt; infile</b>	connect stdin to the file infile
<b>&gt; outfile</b>	send stdout to the file outfile
<b>&gt;&gt; outfile</b>	append stdout to the file outfile
<b>2&gt; outfile</b>	send stderr to the file outfile
<b>2&gt;&gt; outfile</b>	append stderr to the file outfile
<b>&gt; outfile 2&gt;&amp;1</b>	send stderr+stdout to outfile
<b>1&gt;&amp;2</b>	send stdout to stderr (handy for error messages)
<b>«word</b>	here-document - previously discussed
<b>«&lt; string</b>	(in bash) here-string - a single line here-document
<b>&amp;&gt; outfile</b>	(in bash) send stdout+stderr to outfile

- beware: > truncates file before executing command.
- always have backups!

## Pipelines

- **command<sub>1</sub> | command<sub>2</sub> | command<sub>3</sub> | ...**
- stdout of **command<sub>n-1</sub>** connected to stdin of **command<sub>n</sub>**
- beware changes to variables in pipeline are lost
- some non-filter style Unix programs given a filename – read from stdin
  - allows them to be used in a pipeline



## searching PATH for the program

- first word on line specifies command to be run
- if first word is not the full (absolute) pathname of a file the colon-separated list of directory specified by the variable PATH is searched
- for example if **PATH=/bin/;/usr/bin/;/home/z1234567/bin** and the command is **kitten** the shell will check (stat) these files in order:
  - **/bin/kitten /usr/bin/kitten /home/z1234567/bin**
  - the first that exists and is executable will be run
  - if none exist the shell will print an error message
- or **.** in PATH causes the current directory to be checked
  - this can be convenient - but make it last not first, e.g.:  
**PATH=/bin/;/usr/bin/;/home/z1234567/bin:.**
  - definitely do not include the current directory in PATH if you are root
  - an empty entry in PATH is equivalent to **.**

## danger of having `.` in your PATH

- if `.` is not last in PATH then programs in the current directory may be unexpectedly run
- this can also happen inside run shell scripts or other programs you run
- robust shell scripts often set PATH to ensure this doesn't happen, e.g.: **PATH=/bin/:/usr/bin/:\$PATH**

```
# equivalent to PATH=./bin:/usr/bin:/home/z1234567/bin
$ PATH=./bin:/usr/bin:/home/z1234567/bin
$ cat >cat <<eof
#!/bin/dash
echo miaou
eof
$ chmod 755 cat
$ cat /home/cs2041/public_html/index.html
miaou
$
```

Problem: `./cat` is being run rather `/bin/cat`

## Shell Scripts

We can execute shell commands in a file:

```
$ cat hello
echo Hello, John Connor - the time is $(date)
$ dash hello
Hello, John Connor - the time is Fri 29 Aug 1997 02:14:00 EST
```

- Unix-like systems allow an interpreter to be specified in a `#!` line
- allows program to be executed directly without knowing it is shell

```
$ cat hello
#!/usr/bin/env dash
echo Hello, John Connor - the time is $(date)
$ chmod 755 hello
$ ./hello
Hello, John Connor - the time is Fri 29 Aug 1997 02:14:00 EST
```

- use **#!/bin/bash** if you want bash

## Shell Built-in Variables

Some shell built-in variables with pre-assigned values:

---

<b>\$0</b>	the name of the command
<b>\$1</b>	the first command-line argument
<b>\$2</b>	the second command-line argument
...	...
<b>\$#</b>	count of command-line arguments
<b>"\$@"</b>	command-line arguments as separate word
<b>\$?</b>	exit status of the most recent command
<b>\$\$</b>	process ID of this shell

---

- **\$\$** is useful for generating (somewhat) unique names in scripts.
- see also the **shift** command

```
#!/bin/dash
# A simple shell script demonstrating access to arguments.
# written by andrewt@unsw.edu.au as a COMP(2041|9044) example
echo My name is "$0"
echo My process number is $$
echo I have $# arguments
echo My command-line arguments are "$@"
echo My 5th argument is "$5"
echo My 10th argument is "${10}"
```

[source code for args.sh](#)

## Example - Simple Shell Script

```
#!/bin/sh
# l [file|directories...] - list files
#
# written by andrewt@unsw.edu.au as a COMP(2041|9044) example
#
# Short shell scripts can be used for convenience.
#
# It is common to put these scripts in a directory
# such as /home/z1234567/scripts
# then add this directory to PATH e.g in .bash_login
# PATH=$PATH:/home/z1234567/scripts
#
# Note: "$@" expands to the arguments to the script,
# but preserves whitespace in arguments.
ls -las "$@"
```

[source code for l](#)

## Example - Putting a Pipeline in a Shell Script

```
#!/bin/dash
# Count the number of time each different word occurs
# in the files given as arguments, or stdin if no arguments,
# e.g. word_frequency.sh dracula.txt
# written by andrewt@unsw.edu.au as a COMP(2041|9044) example
cat "$@" | # tr doesn't take filenames as arguments
tr 'A-Z' 'a-z' | # map uppercase to lower case, better - tr
↪ '[:upper:]' '[:lower:]'
tr ' ' '\n' | # convert to one word per line
tr -cd "a-z" | # remove all characters except a-z and '
grep -E -v '^\$' | # remove empty lines
sort | # place words in alphabetical order
uniq -c | # count how many times each word occurs
sort -rn # order in reverse frequency of occurrence
# notes:
# - first 2 tr commands could be combined
# - sed 's/ /\n/g' could be used instead of tr ' ' '\n'
# - sed "s/[^a-z]//g" could be used instead of tr -cd "a-z"
```

[source code for word\\_frequency.sh](#)

Tip: debugging for shell scripts

- test parts of shell script from command line
- use **echo** to print the value of variables
- add **set -x** to see commands being executed
  - or equivalently run **/bin/dash -x script.sh**
  - shell transforms commands
  - useful to see exactly what is being executed

## Exit Status and Control

- when Unix-like programs finish they give the operating system an **exit status**
  - the return value of 'main' becomes the **exit status** of a C program
  - or if `exit` is called, its argument is the **exit status**
  - in Python **exit status** is supplied as an argument to `sys.exit`
- an **exit status** is a (usually small) integer
  - by convention a zero exit status indicated normal/successful execution
  - a non-zero exit status indicates an error occurred
  - which non-zero integer might indicate the nature of the problem
- program exit status is often ignored
  - not important writing single programs (COMP1511/COMP9021)
  - very important when combining multiple programs COMP(2041|9044)
- flow of execution in Shell scripts based on exit status
  - `if/while` statement conditions use exit status
- two weird utilities
  - `/bin/true` does nothing and always exits with status 0
  - `/bin/false` does nothing and always exits with status 1

## The test command

- The **test** command performs a test or combination of tests and:
  - does/prints nothing
  - returns a zero exit status if the test succeeds
  - returns a non-zero exit status if the test fails
- Provides a variety of useful operators:
  - string comparison: `=` `!=`
  - numeric comparison: `-eq` `-ne` `-lt`
  - test if file exists/is executable/is readable: `-f` `-x` `-r`
  - boolean operators (and/or/not): `-a` `-o` `!`
- also available as `[]` instead of `test` - which many programmers prefer
- builtin to some shell (e.g. `bash`) but available as `/bin/test` or `/bin/[]`

## The test command examples

```
# does the variable msg have the value "Hello"?
test "$msg" = "Hello"

# does x contain a numeric value larger than y?
test "$x" -gt "$y"

# Error: expands to "test hello there = Hello"?
msg="hello there"
test $msg = Hello

# is the value of x in range 10..20?
test "$x" -ge 10 -a "$x" -le 20

# is the file xyz a readable directory?
test -r xyz -a -d xyz

# alternative syntax; requires closing ]
[ -r xyz -a -d xyz ]
```

## If Statements - syntax

```
if command1
then
    then-commands
elif command2
then
    elif-commands
else
    else-commands
fi
```

- the execution path depends on the exit status of *command*<sub>1</sub> and *command*<sub>2</sub>
- **command**<sub>1</sub> is executed and if its exit status is 0, the **then-commands** are executed
- otherwise **command**<sub>2</sub> is executed and if its exit status is 0, the **elif-commands** are executed
- otherwise the **else-commands** are executed

## If Statements - Example

```
if gcc main.c; then
    echo your C compiles
elif python3 main.c; then
    echo you have written Python not C
else
    echo program broken – send help
fi
```

```
if gcc a.c
then
# you can not have an empty body
# use a : statement which does nothing
:
else
    rm a.c
fi
```

shell **while** statements have this form:

```
while command
do
    body-commands
done
```

- the execution path depends on the exit status of *command*
- **command** is executed and if its exit status is 0, the **body-commands** are executed and then **command** is executed and if its exit status is 0 the **body-commands** are executed and ...
- if the exit status of **command** is not 0, execution of the loop stops

## example - seq - simple version

```
#!/bin/dash
# simple emulation of /usr/bin/seq for a COMP(2041|9044) example
# andrewt@unsw.edu.au
# Print the integers 1..n with no argument checking
last=$1
number=1
while test $number -le "$last"
do
    echo $number
    number=$((number + 1))
done
```

[source code for seq.v0.sh](#)

```
$ ./seq.v0.sh 3
1
2
3
```

## example - seq - argument handling added

```
# Print the integers 1..n or n..m
if test $# = 1
then
    first=1
    last=$1
elif test $# = 2
then
    first=$1
    last=$2
else
    echo "Usage: $0 <last> or $0 <first> <last>" 1>&2
    exit 1
fi
number=$first
while test $number -le "$last"
do
    echo $number
    number=$((number + 1))
done
```

[source code for seq.v1.sh](#)

## example - seq - using [] instead of test

```
if [ $# = 1 ]
then
    first=1
    last=$1
elif [ $# = 1 ]
then
    first=$1
    last=$2
else
    echo "Usage: $0 <last> or $0 <first> <last>" 1>&2
    exit 1
fi
number=$first
while [ $number -le $last ]
do
    echo $number
    number=$((number + 1))
done
```

source code for seq.v2.sh

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34 / 76

## example - watching a website - argument checking

```
# Repeatedly download a specified web page
# until a specified regexp matches its source
# then notify the specified email address.
#
# For example:
# watch_website.sh http://ticketek.com.au/ '[Tt]ayl(a|or) *[Ss]wift'
↪ andrewt@unsw.edu.au
repeat_seconds=300 #check every 5 minutes
if test $# = 3
then
    url=$1
    regexp=$2
    email_address=$3
else
    echo "Usage: $0 <url> <regex> <email-address>" 1>&2
    exit 1
fi
```

source code for watch\_website.sh

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COMP(20419044) 26T2 – Shell

35 / 76

## example - watching a website - main loop

```
while true
do
    if curl --silent "$url"|grep -E "$regexp" >/dev/null
    then
        # the 2nd echo is for testing, remove to really send email
        echo "Generated by $0" |
        echo mail -s "website '$url' now matches regex '$regexp'"
        ↪ "$email_address"
        exit 0
    fi
    sleep $repeat_seconds
done
```

source code for watch\_website.sh

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COMP(20419044) 26T2 – Shell

36 / 76

shell **for** statements have this form:

```
for var in word1 word2 word3
do
    body-commands
    ...
done
```

- the loop executes once for each *word* with *var* set to the *word*
- **break** & **continue** statements can be in used inside for & while loops with the same effect as C/Python
- keywords such **for**, **if**, **while**, ... are only recognised at the start of a command, e.g.:

```
$ echo when if else for
when if else for
```

## Example - Shell Script accessing Command-line Arguments

```
for a in "$@"
do
    echo "$a"
done
```

[source code for accessing\\_args.sh](#)

Example - Shell Script accessing Command-line Arguments

```
$ ./accessing_args.sh one two "three four"
one
two
three four
```

## Using Exit Status for Conditional Execution

- all commands are executed if separated by **;** or newline, e.g:  
 $cmd_1 ; cmd_2 ; \dots ; cmd_n$
- when commands are separated by **&&**  
 $cmd_1 \&\& cmd_2 \&\& \dots \&\& cmd_n$   
execution stops if a command has non-zero exit status  
 $cmd_{n+1}$  is executed only if  $cmd_n$  has zero exit status
- when commands are separated by **||**  
 $cmd_1 || cmd_2 || \dots || cmd_n$   
execution stops if a command has zero exit status  
 $cmd_{n+1}$  is executed only if  $cmd_n$  has non-zero exit status
- **{ }** can be used to group commands
- **( )** also can be used to group commands - but executes them in a subshell
  - changes to variables and current working directory have no effect outside the subshell
- exit status of group or pipeline of commands is exit status of last command

```
# run a.out if it exists and is executable
test -x a.out && ./a.out

# if directory tmp doesn't exist create it
test -d tmp || mkdir tmp

# if directory tmp doesn't exist create it
{test -d tmp || mkdir tmp;} && chmod 755 tmp

# but simpler is
mkdir -p tmp && chmod 755 tmp
```

## { } versus ( ) - example

```
$ cd /usr/share
$ x=123
$ ( cd /tmp; x=abc; )
$ echo $x
123
$ pwd
/usr/share
$ { cd /tmp; x=abc; }
$ echo $x
abd
$ pwd
/tmp
```

- changes to variables and current working directory have no effect outside a subshell
- pipelines also executed in subshell, but variables and directory not usually changed in a pipeline

## shellcheck - shell static analysis tool

- shellcheck <https://www.shellcheck.net/> statically analyzes shell scripts
  - finds possible bugs without running script
  - highly-recommended because it picks up many common shell coding mistakes
- static analysis tools highly valuable because they give another way of checking for errors
  - faster/easier than testing
  - may find errors testing will miss
- static analysis tools available for many languages
  - e.g. pyflakes, pylint, prospector for Python
  - compilers (e.g. gcc/clang) use static analysis to produce faster/smaller code and report possible bugs

## example - renaming files - argument checking

```
# Change the names of the specified files to lower case.
# (simple version of the perl utility rename)
#
# Note use of test to check if the new filename is unchanged.
#
# Note the double quotes around $filename so filenames
# containing spaces are not broken into multiple words
# Note the use of mv -- to stop mv interpreting a
# filename beginning with - as an option
# Note files named -n or -e still break the script
# because echo will treat them as an option,
if test $# = 0
then
    echo "Usage $0: <files>" 1>&2
    exit 1
fi
```

source code for tolower.sh

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43 / 76

## example - renaming files- main loop

```
for filename in "$@"
do
    new_filename=$(
        echo "$filename"|
        tr '[:upper:]' '[:lower:]'
    )
    test "$filename" = "$new_filename" &&
        continue
    if test -r "$new_filename"
    then
        echo "$0: $new_filename exists" 1>&2
    elif test -e "$filename"
    then
        mv -- "$filename" "$new_filename"
    else
        echo "$0: $filename not found" 1>&2
    fi
done
```

source code for tolower.sh

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44 / 76

## read - shell builtin

- **read** is a shell builtin which reads a line of input into variable(s)
  - non-zero exit status on EOF
  - newline is stripped
  - leading and trailing whitespace stripped unless variable IFS unset
  - note **-r** option if input might contain backslashes
- if more than one variable specified, line is split into fields on white space
  - 1st variable assigned 1st field, 2nd variable assigned 2nd field ...
  - last variable entire remainder of line
  - if insufficient fields variables assigned empty strings
- if more than one variable specified, line is split into fields on white space

```
$ read v
hello world
$ echo "$v"
hello world
$ read a b c
1 2 3 4 5
$ echo "a='$a' b='$b' c='$c'"
a='1' b='2' c='3 4 5'
```

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45 / 76

## read - simple example

```
echo -n "Do you like learning Shell? "  
read answer  
# get first letter of answer converted to lower case  
answer="$(  
    echo "$answer"|  
    cut -c1|  
    tr A-Z a-z  
    )"  
if test "$answer" = "y"  
then  
    response=")"  
elif test "$answer" = "n"  
then  
    response=":"  
else  
    response="?"  
fi  
echo "$response"
```

[source code for read\\_response\\_if.sh](#)

<https://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/~cs2041/26T2/>

COMP(2041|9044) 26T2 – Shell

46 / 76

## emulating cat with read

```
#!/bin/dash  
# written by andrewt@unsw.edu.au for COMP(2041|9044)  
# over-simple /bin/cat emulation using read  
# setting the special variable IFS to the empty string  
# stops trailing white space being stripped  
for file in "$@"  
do  
    while IFS= read -r line  
    do  
        echo "$line"  
    done <$file  
done
```

[source code for read\\_cat.sh](#)

<https://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/~cs2041/26T2/>

COMP(2041|9044) 26T2 – Shell

47 / 76

## case statements - syntax

```
case word in  
    pattern1)  
        commands1  
        ;;  
    pattern2)  
        commands2  
        ;;  
    patternn)  
        commandsN  
esac
```

- **word** is compared to each **pattern<sub>i</sub>** in turn.
- for the first **pattern<sub>i</sub>** that matches the corresponding **commands<sub>i</sub>** is executed and the case statement finishes.

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COMP(2041|9044) 26T2 – Shell

48 / 76

- case patterns use the same language as filename expansion (globbing)
  - in other words the special characters are \* ? []
  - patterns are not interpreted as regexes
- shell programmer used to use **case** statements heavily for efficiency
  - much less important now and many shell programmers don't use case
  - but use of case can still make shell code more readable

## case statement - examples

```
# Checking number of command line args
case $# in
0)  echo "You forgot to supply the argument" ;;
1)  filename=$1 ;;
*)  echo "You supplied too many arguments" ;;
esac

# Classifying a file via its name
case "$file" in
*.c) echo "$file looks like a C source-code file" ;;
*.h) echo "$file looks like a C header file" ;;
*.o) echo "$file looks like a an object file" ;;
...
?)  echo "$file's name is too short to classify" ;;
*)  echo "I have no idea what $file is" ;;
esac
```

## case - simple example

```
echo -n "Do you like learning Shell? "
read answer
case "$answer" in
[Yy]*)
    response=":)"
    ;;
[Nn]*)
    response=":(("
    ;;
*)
    response="???"
esac
echo "$response"
```

[source code for read\\_response\\_case.sh](#)

shell functions have this form:

```
name () {
    commands
}
```

- function arguments passed in: `$@ $1 $2 ...`
- use **return** to stop function execution and return exit status
  - beware: **exit** in a function still terminates entire program
- **local** keyword can be used to limit scope of variables to function
  - **local** is not POSIX, but is widely supported although exact semantics vary
    - **ksh** does not support **local**, it has a similar keyword **typeset**

## example - shell function

```
#!/bin/dash
# written by andrewt@unsw.edu.au for COMP(2041|9044)
# demonstrate simple use of a shell function
favourite_command() {
    name=$1
    command=$2
    echo "My name is $name, my favourite Unix command is $command."
}
favourite_command Andrew "uniq"
favourite_command Dylan "jq"
favourite_command Grace "sed"
```

[source code for favourite\\_command.sh](#)

## example - local variables in a shell function

```
# print print numbers < 1000
# note use of local Shell builtin to scope a variable
# without the local declaration
# the variable i in the function would be global
# and would break the bottom while loop
# local is not (yet) POSIX but is widely supported
is_prime() {
    local n i
    n=$1
    i=2
    while test $i -lt $n
    do
        test $((n % i)) -eq 0 &&
        return 1
        i=$((i + 1))
    done
    return 0
}
i=0
while test $i -lt 1000
do
    is_prime $i &&
    echo $i
    i=$((i + 1))
done
```

[source code for local.sh](#)

## creating a 1001 file C program - creating one file

```
create_file() {
    local n
    n=$1
    # create file$n.c containing function f$n
    printf "int f%d(void) {\n\treturn %d;\n}\n" "$n" "$n" >"file$n.c"
    # add declation of function f$n to i.h
    echo "    int f$n(void);" >>i.h
    # add call to function f$n to main.c
    echo "    v += f$n();" >>main.c
    # add file$n.c to list of files to compile
    c_files="$c_files file$n.c"
}
```

[source code for create\\_1001\\_file\\_C\\_program.sh](#)

## creating a 1001 file C program - creating main

```
start_main() {
    cat >main.c <<eof
#include <stdio.h>
#include "i.h"
int main(void) {
    int v = 0 ;
eof
    c_files="main.c"
}
finish_main() {
    cat >>main.c <<eof
    printf("%d\n", v);
    return 0;
}
```

[source code for create\\_1001\\_file\\_C\\_program.sh](#)

## creating a 1001 file C program - compiling & running the program

```
start_main
i=0
while test $i -lt 1000
do
    create_file $i
    i=$((i + 1))
done
finish_main
time clang -o thousand_file_program $c_files &&
./thousand_file_program
```

[source code for create\\_1001\\_file\\_C\\_program.sh](#)

```
# Note use of diff -iw so changes in white-space or case are ignored
for file1 in "$@"
do
  for file2 in "$@"
  do
    test "$file1" = "$file2" &&
      break # avoid comparing pairs of assignments twice
    if diff -iBw "$file1" "$file2" >/dev/null
    then
      echo "$file1 is a copy of $file2"
    fi
  done
done
```

[source code for plagiarism\\_detection.simple\\_diff.sh](#)

## plagiarism detection - ignoring changes to comments

```
# The substitution s/\/\/*.*// removes // style C comments.
# This means changes in comments won't affect comparisons.
# Note use of temporary files is insecure - an attacker can anticipate the
↪ filename
TMP_FILE1=/tmp/plagiarism_tmp1$$
TMP_FILE2=/tmp/plagiarism_tmp2$$
for file1 in "$@"
do
  for file2 in "$@"
  do
    test "$file1" = "$file2" &&
      break # avoid comparing pairs of assignments twice
    sed 's/\/\/*.*//' "$file1" >$TMP_FILE1
    sed 's/\/\/*.*//' "$file2" >$TMP_FILE2
    if diff -i -w $TMP_FILE1 $TMP_FILE2 >/dev/null
    then
      echo "$file1 is a copy of $file2"
    fi
  done
done
rm -f $TMP_FILE1 $TMP_FILE2
```

[source code for plagiarism\\_detection.comments.sh](#)

## robust creation & removal of temporary files

- our code can be more robust and more secure by using `mktemp` to generate temporary file names
- we can also use the builtin shell `trap` command to ensure temporary files are removed however the script exits
- temporary file creation is major source of security holes be very careful creating temporary files
- in all languages, use existing robust & well-tested code such as **mktemp**
  - don't write your own code
- `mktemp` is not (yet) standardized by POSIX
  - simple uses are portable to many platforms

## plagiarism detection - ignoring changes to variable names #1

```
# change all C strings to the letter 's'
# and change all identifiers to the letter 'v'.
# Hence changes in strings & identifiers will be ignored.
# mktemp provide suitable temporary filename, robustly & securely
TMP_FILE1=$(mktemp)
TMP_FILE2=$(mktemp)
# trap allows use to remove temporary files if program interrupted
trap 'rm -f $TMP_FILE1 $TMP_FILE2' EXIT
# s/"["]*"/s/g changes strings to the letter 's'
# It won't match a few C strings which is OK for our purposes
# s/[a-zA-Z_][a-zA-Z0-9_]*v/g changes variable names to 'v'
# It will also change function names, keywords etc. which is OK for our
↪ purposes.
transform() {
    sed '
        s/\\/\\.*/
        s/"^"/s/g
        s/[a-zA-Z_][a-zA-Z0-9_]*v/g
        ' $1
}
```

source code for plagiarism\_detection.identifiers.sh

<https://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/~cs2041/26T2/>

COMP(20419044) 26T2 – Shell

61 / 76

## plagiarism detection - ignoring changes to variable names #2

```
for file1 in "$@"
do
    for file2 in "$@"
    do
        test "$file1" = "$file2" &&
            break # avoid comparing pairs of assignments twice
        transform "$file1" >$TMP_FILE1
        transform "$file2" >$TMP_FILE2
        if diff -iBw $TMP_FILE1 $TMP_FILE2 >/dev/null
        then
            echo "$file1 is a copy of $file2"
        fi
    done
done
```

source code for plagiarism\_detection.identifiers.sh

<https://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/~cs2041/26T2/>

COMP(20419044) 26T2 – Shell

62 / 76

## plagiarism detection - ignoring changes in code order

```
TMP_FILE1=$(mktemp)
TMP_FILE2=$(mktemp)
trap 'rm -f $TMP_FILE1 $TMP_FILE2' EXIT
# Note the use of sort so line reordering won't prevent detection of
↪ plagiarism.
transform() {
    sed '
        s/\\/\\.*/
        s/"^"/s/g
        s/[a-zA-Z_][a-zA-Z0-9_]*v/g
        ' $1 |
    sort
}
```

source code for plagiarism\_detection.reordering.sh

<https://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/~cs2041/26T2/>

COMP(20419044) 26T2 – Shell

63 / 76

## Example - creating a temporary directory

```
# securely & robustly create a new temporary directory
temporary_directory=$(mktemp -d)
# ensure temporary directory + all its contents removed on exit
trap 'exit 1' INT TERM
trap 'rm -rf "$temporary_directory"; exit' EXIT
# change working directory to the new temporary directory
cd "$temporary_directory" || exit 1
# we are now in an empty directory
# and create any number of files & directories
# which all will be removed by the trap above
# e.g. create one thousand empty files
seq 1 1000 | xargs touch
# print current directory and list files
pwd
ls -l
```

source code for create\_temporary\_directory.sh

## Cryptographic hash function

- algorithm maps byte sequence of any length to certain number of bits
- e.g sha256 input: any number of bytes, output 256 bits (= 8 bytes) hash
- one way function - not feasible to reverse
- given a hash, not feasible to compute an input which produces that hash
- collisions (different inputs producing the same hash) occur but are vanishingly rare
- small change to input changes hash completely
- many applications:
  - hashes of passwords stored rather than password itself
  - integrity check on set of files
  - fingerprint a file

## plagiarism detection - using hashing

```
# Improved version of plagiarism_detection.reordering.sh
# Note use sha256sum to calculate a Cryptographic hash of the modified file
# https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SHA-2
# and use of sort && uniq to find files with the same hash
# This allows execution time linear in the number of files
# We could use a faster less secure hashing function instead of sha2
sha2hash() {
  sed '
    s/\\/\\.*/
    s/"[^"]"/s/g
    s/[a-zA-Z_][a-zA-Z0-9_]*/v/g
    ' $1 |
  sort |
  sha256sum
}
for file in "$@"
do
  echo "$(sha2hash $file) $file"
done |
sort |
uniq -w32 -d --all-repeated=separate
```

source code for plagiarism\_detection.hash.sh

```

my_process_id=$$
# launch a asynchronous sub-shell that will kill
# this process in a second
(sleep 1; kill $my_process_id) &
i=0
while true
do
    echo $i
    i=$((i + 1))
done

```

[source code for async.v0.sh](#)

- **command &** executes *command* but does not wait for it to finish
- **sleep 1** suspends execution for a second
- **kill** sends a signal to a process, which by default causes it to exit

## intercepting signals with trap

- **trap** specifies commands to be executed if a signal is received, e.g.:

```

# count slowly and laugh at interrupts (ctrl-C)
# catch signal SIGINT and print message
trap 'echo ha ha' INT
n=0
while true
do
    echo "$n"
    sleep 1
    n=$((n + 1))
done

```

[source code for laugh.sh](#)

- **trap** is useful for cleaning up temporary files before termination, e.g.

```
trap 'rm -f "$TMP_FILE";exit' INT TERM EXIT
```

## example - catching a signal with trap

```

# catch signal SIGTERM, print message and exit
trap 'echo loop executed $n times in 1 second; exit 0' TERM
# launch a sub-shell that will terminate
# this process in 1 second
my_process_id=$$
(sleep 1; kill $my_process_id) &
n=0
while true
do
    n=$((n + 1))
done

```

[source code for async.v1.sh](#)

## example - compiling in parallel

```
# compile the files of a multi-file C program in parallel
# use create_1001_file_C_program.sh to create suitable test data
# On a CPU with n cores this can be (nearly) n times faster
# If there are large number of C files we
# may exhaust memory or operating system resources
for f in "$@"
do
    clang -c "$f" &
done
# wait for the incremental compiles to finish
# and then compile .o files into single binary
wait
clang -o binary -- *.o
```

[source code for parallel\\_compile.v0.sh](#)

## example - compiling in parallel

```
# compile the files of a multi-file C program in parallel
# use create_1001_file_C_program.sh to create suitable test data
# on Linux getconf will tell us how many cores the machine has
# otherwise assume 8
max_processes=$(getconf _NPROCESSORS_ONLN 2>/dev/null) ||
    max_processes=8
# NOTE: this breaks if a filename contains whitespace or quotes
echo "$@" |
xargs --max-procs=$max_processes --max-args=1 clang -c
clang -o binary -- *.o
```

[source code for parallel\\_compile.v1.sh](#)

## example - compiling in parallel

```
$ ./create_1001_file_C_program.sh
$ echo *.c
file0.c file1.c file10.c file100.c file101.c file102.c ...
$ echo *.c|wc -w
1001
# compiling 1 file at a time
$ time clang *.c
real    0m20.875s
user    0m13.016s
sys     0m7.835s
# compiling all 1001 files simultaneously
$ time ./parallel_compile.v0.sh *.c
real    0m2.335s
user    0m9.066s
sys     0m8.788s
# compiling 24 files at a time
$ time ./parallel_compile.v1.sh *.c
real    0m1.971s
user    0m18.694s
sys     0m18.428s
$ grep 'model name' /proc/cpuinfo|sed 1q
model name : AMD Ryzen 9 3900X 12-Core Processor
```

## example - compiling in parallel

```
# compile the files of a multi-file C program in parallel
# use create_1001_file_C_program.sh to create suitable test data
# find's -print0 option terminates pathnames with a '\0'
# xargs's --null option expects '\0' terminated input
# as '\0' can not appear in file names this can handle any filename
# on Linux getconf will tell us how many cores the machine has
# if getconf assume 8
max_processes=$(getconf _NPROCESSORS_ONLN 2>/dev/null) ||
    max_processes=8
find "$@" -print0 |
xargs --max-procs=$max_processes --max-args=1 --null clang -c
clang -o binary -- *.o
```

[source code for parallel\\_compile.v2.sh](#)

## example - compiling in parallel

```
# compile the files of a muti-file C program in parallel
# use create_1001_file_C_program.sh to create suitable test data
parallel clang -c '{}' ::: "$@"
clang -o binary -- *.o
```

[source code for parallel\\_compile.v3.sh](#)

## Shell Variable Expansion - More Syntax

```
$ x=1
$ y=fred
$ echo $x$y
1fred
$ echo $xy      # the aim is to display "1y"

$ echo "$x"y
1y
$ echo ${x}y
1y
$ echo ${j-10}  # give value of j or 10 if no value
10
$ echo ${j=33}  # set j to 33 if no value (and give $j)
33
$ echo ${x:?No Value}  # display "No Value" if $x not set
1
$ echo ${xx:?No Value} # display "No Value" if $xx not set
-bash: xx: No Value
```

## Bash arithmetic (( )) extension example

```
# print numbers < 1000
# Rewritten to use bash arithmetic extension (( ))
# This makes the program more readable but less portable.
is_prime() {
    local n i
    n=$1
    i=2
    while ((i < n))
    do
        if ((n % i == 0))
        then
            return 1
        fi
        i=$((i + 1))
    done
    return 0
}
i=0
while ((i < 1000))
do
    is_prime $i && echo $i
    i=$((i + 1))
done
```

source code for bash\_arithmetic.sh