



Chapter 6: File Globbing



Globber Introduction

- Globs, also called “wildcards”, are special characters to the shell designed to match filenames used for manipulating (listing, copying, moving, etc.) groups of files
- Three types:
 - * = match zero or more of any character
 - ? = match exactly one character
 - [] = match exactly one character from a range of characters
- Learn more: `man 7 glob`



“*” Wildcard Examples

- Display all files in the current directory:
`$echo *` or `$ls *`
- Display all files in the current directory that begin with the letter D:
`$echo D*` or `$ls D*`
- Display all files in the current directory that begin with "D" and have an "n":
`$echo D*n*` or `$ls D*n*`



“?” Wildcard Examples

- Display all files in the current directory that have exactly one character in file name:
`$echo ?` or `$ls ?`
- Display all files in the current directory that begin with the letter D and have three more characters:
`$echo D???` or `$ls D???`



“[]” Wildcard Examples

- Display all files in the current directory that begin with "a", "b" or "c":
`$echo [abc]*` or `$ls [abc]*`
`$echo [a-c]*` or `$ls [a-c]*`
- When using a range ([a-c]), the range is based on the ASCII text table
- Display all files in the current directory that don't begin with "a", "b" or "c":
`$echo [^a-c]*` or `$ls [^a-c]*`



More complex Examples

- Display all files in the current directory that begin with "a", "b" or "c" and are at least 5 characters long:

```
$echo [abc]????* or $ls [abc]????*
```

- Display all files in the current directory that begin any character but don't end with "x", "y" or "z":

```
$echo *[^xyz] or $ls *[^xyz]
```