

Introduction to Shell

Nasser-Eddine MONIR

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Lecture



UL-IDMC Introduction to Shell

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Operating Systems (OS)

Definition and Examples

- An **operating system (OS)** is the software that manages and controls the hardware and other software on a computer or device.

Windows

Developed by: Microsoft

Overview: One of the most widely used operating systems for personal computers and laptops.

Use cases: Dominant in business environments, gaming, and home computing.

Key Features: Graphical user interface (GUI), extensive software and hardware compatibility, built-in tools like Windows Explorer.

MacOS

Developed by: Apple Inc.

Overview: A Unix-certified operating system designed specifically for Apple's Mac computers.

Use cases: Popular in creative industries (graphic design, video editing, music production), education, and personal computing.

Key Features: Unix-based, intuitive GUI, strong focus on security and privacy, integration with Apple ecosystem (iCloud, Siri).

Linux

Developed by: Open-source community (initially by Linus Torvalds in 1991)

Overview: A free and open-source Unix-like operating system used for a wide range of purposes, from desktop computers to servers and embedded systems.

Use cases: Commonly used in servers, cloud infrastructure, scientific computing, and by developers.

Key Features: Highly customizable, strong security features, large community support, available in multiple distributions.

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Operating Systems (OS)

Did you say Unix or Linux?

Unix

- **Created in 1969** at Bell Labs by Ken Thompson, Dennis Ritchie and others.
- Originally designed as a **multi-user, multi-tasking** operating system.
- Unix was written in **C** to make it portable across different machines, which was revolutionary at the time.
- **Proprietary**: Unix is a commercial product, and the original source code was owned by Bell Labs (now AT&T).

Linux

- **Created in 1991** by Linus Torvalds as a free, open-source alternative to Unix.
- It was not a derivative of Unix, but it was written from scratch without using any Unix code. This made it a **clone** of Unix rather than a derivative.
- **Open-source**: Linux is released under the GNU General Public License (GPL), making it free to use, modify, and distribute. The Linux kernel is maintained by a global community of developers.
- **Linux distributions** (such as Ubuntu, Fedora, and Debian) are built around the Linux kernel and often include GNU utilities, giving them the common name **GNU/Linux**.

**What is the difference between
UNIX and LINUX?**

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Distributions

Linux

- A **distribution** (often shortened to **distro**) refers to a specific version or variant of the **Linux operating system** that is packaged with the Linux kernel, system utilities, and application software.
- A **distribution** typically includes everything you need to run a complete operating system, including a package manager, graphical user interface (GUI), software libraries, and pre-installed applications.



- **Purpose:** Designed for penetration testing and cybersecurity.
- **Features:** Comes pre-installed with numerous tools for ethical hacking and digital forensics.
- **Target Audience:** Security professionals and ethical hackers.



- **Purpose:** A user-friendly distribution for desktops, servers, and cloud.
- **Features:** Focuses on ease of use, stability, and strong community support.
- **Target Audience:** General users, developers, and businesses.



- **Purpose:** Known for its stability and reliability.
- **Features:** Used as the foundation for many other distributions, including Ubuntu; offers free software and long-term support.
- **Target Audience:** developers, server environments, and advanced users.

Kernel Program

- The **kernel** is a **low-level software program**, written in programming languages (commonly **C**).
- The **kernel** is the **core component** of an operating system.
- It acts as an intermediary between the **hardware** and the **software** running on a computer.
- The kernel's main job is to **manage system resources** (CPU, memory, storage, etc.) and allow different programs to interact with the hardware in a controlled way.
- **Functions:**
 - **Process management:** Handling multiple programs and processes simultaneously.
 - **Memory management:** Allocating and managing the system's memory.
 - **Device management:** Interfacing with hardware devices (e.g., hard drives, printers).
 - **File system management:** Managing files and data storage.
 - **Security and access control:** Enforcing permissions and protecting the system.

Shell

What the (s)hell?

- **Shell** is a command-line interface (CLI) that sits on top of the operating systems and provides a way for users to interact with the OS by typing commands.
- The **shell** takes the commands you type, interprets them, and then passes them to the operating system's kernel to execute them.



Bash was designed as a free and improved version of the Bourne shell with backward compatibility, adding advanced features for both scripting and interactive use.

>> The default shell for many Linux distributions



Zsh is an extended version of the Bourne Shell (**sh**) with many additional features, including better customization options, powerful auto-completion, and a rich plugin ecosystem.

>> The default shell in macOS



Powershell is developed as a task automation and configuration management framework with an emphasis on **object-oriented scripting**.

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Terminal

Definition

- The terminal is a **program** (also known as a terminal emulator) that provides a user interface between the user and the shell. It displays the input (commands) and output (results) of the shell.
- ⚠ It doesn't process or execute commands itself; it merely **accepts user input** and **displays the output** of the shell's operations.

```
user@hostname:~$
```


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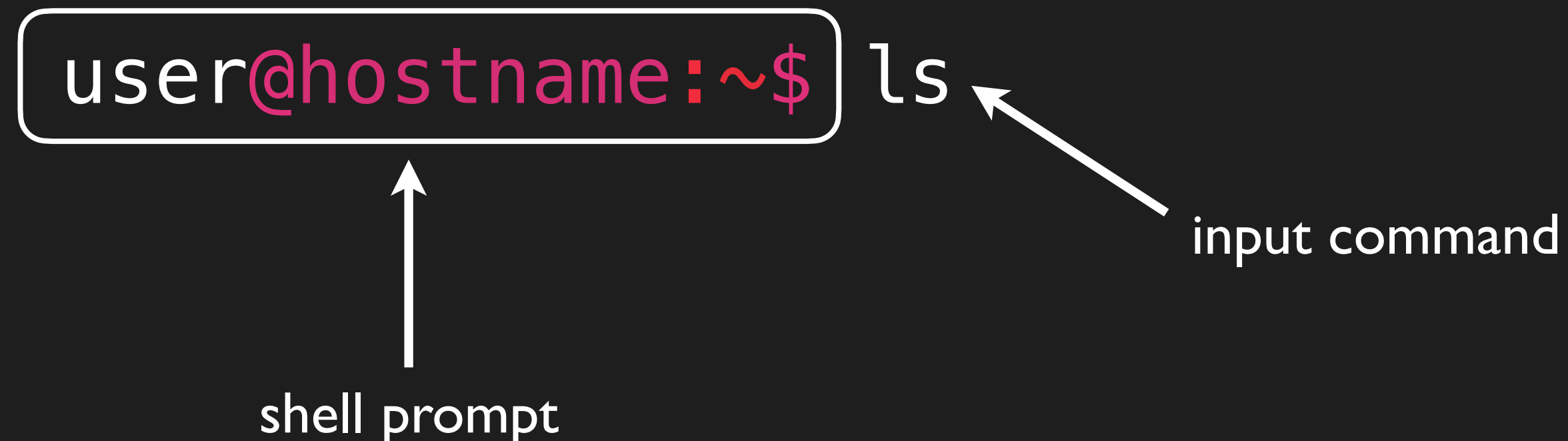
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user@hostname:~\$ ls ← input command

Applications
Music
Parallels

Desktop
Pictures
Public

Downloads
Documents

Local Sites
Library

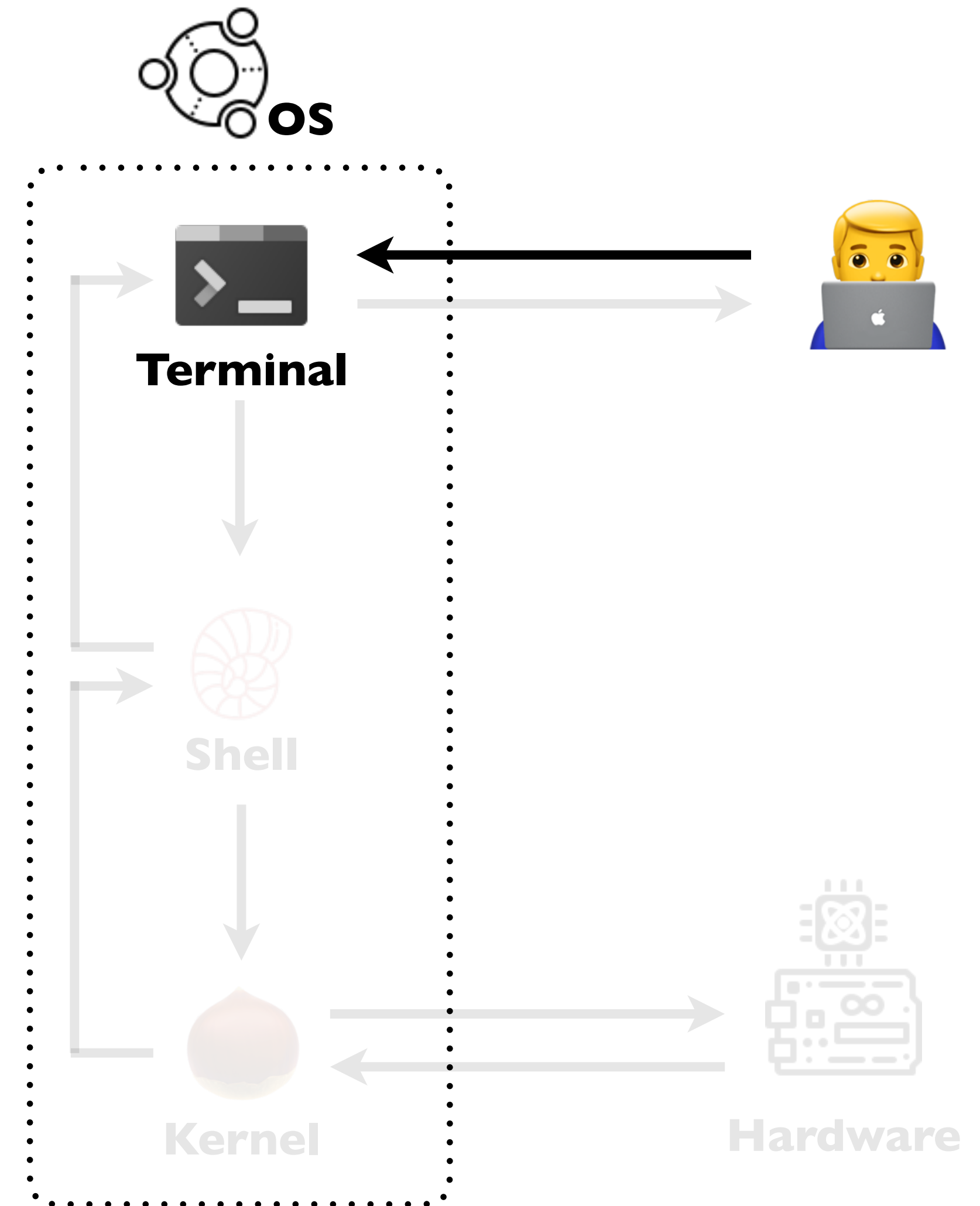
← output

user@hostname:~\$ █

Shell

Step-by-Step Process

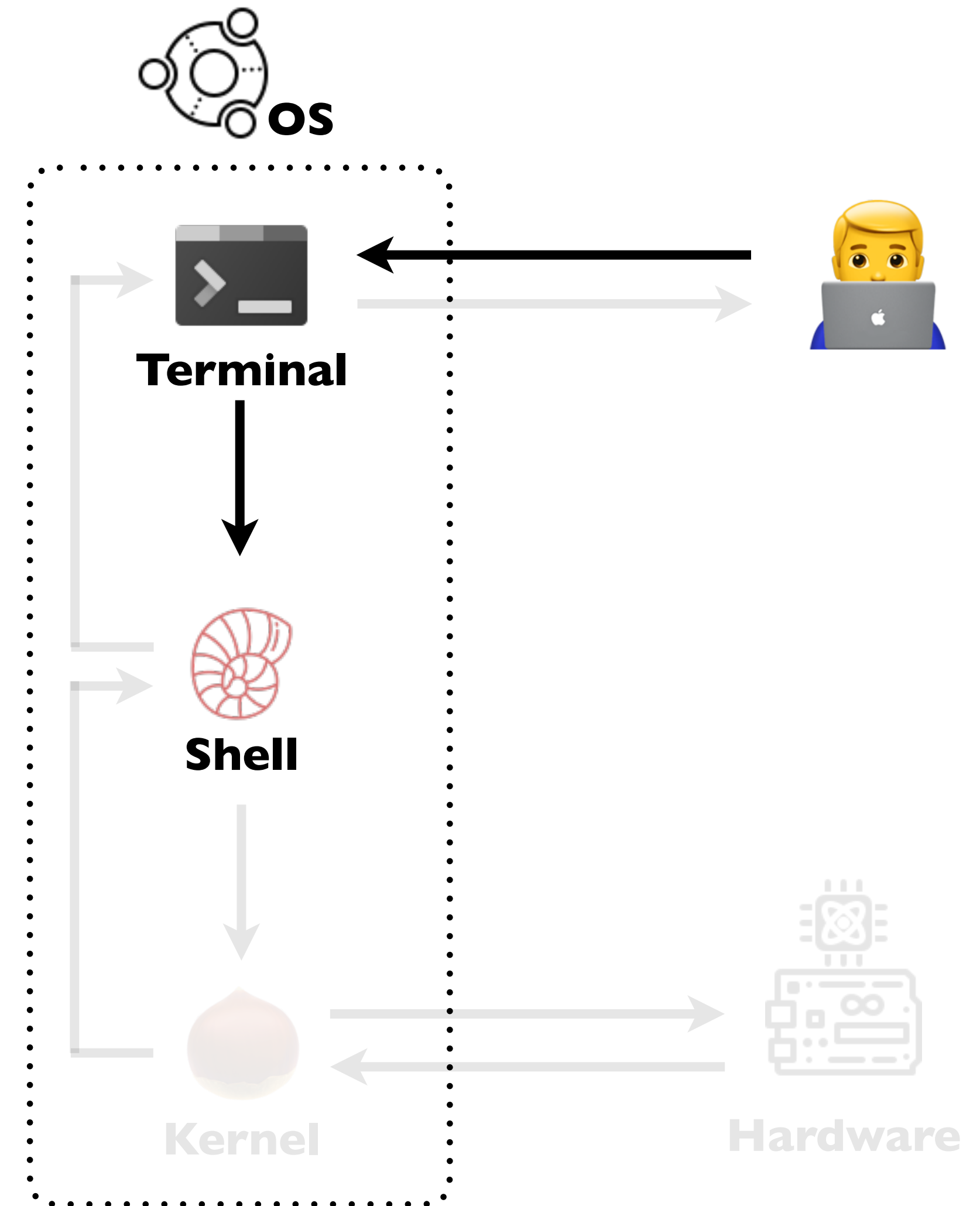
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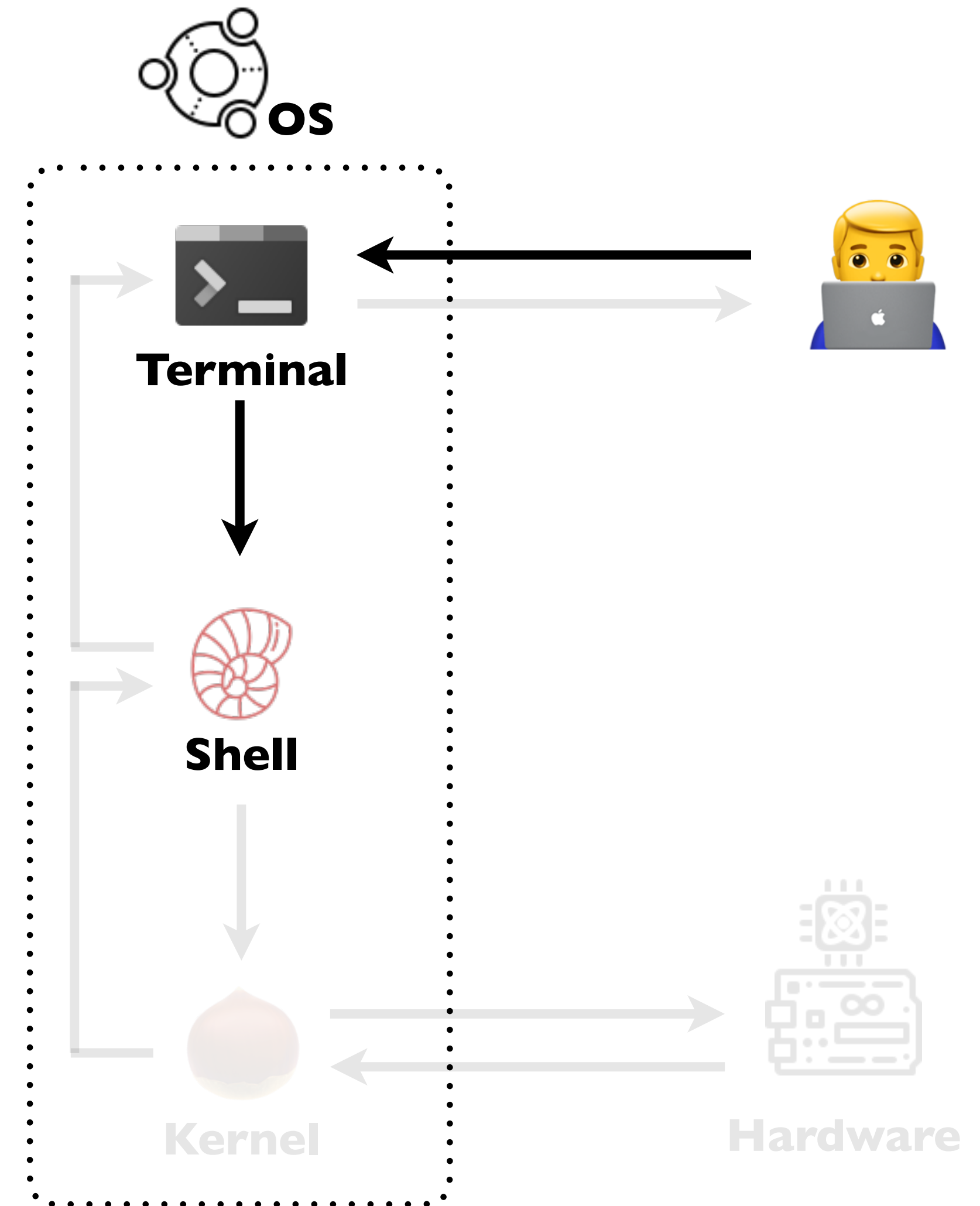
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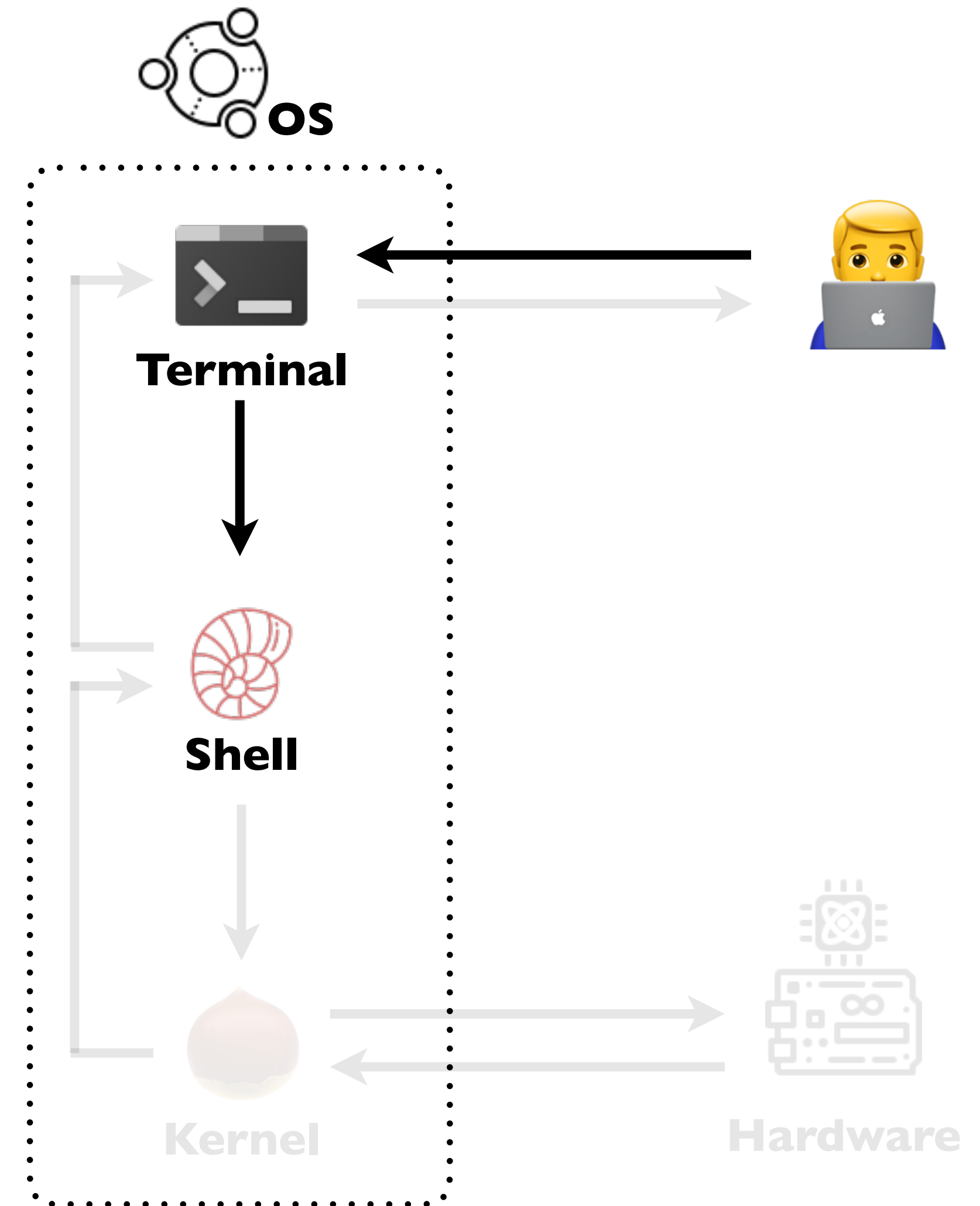
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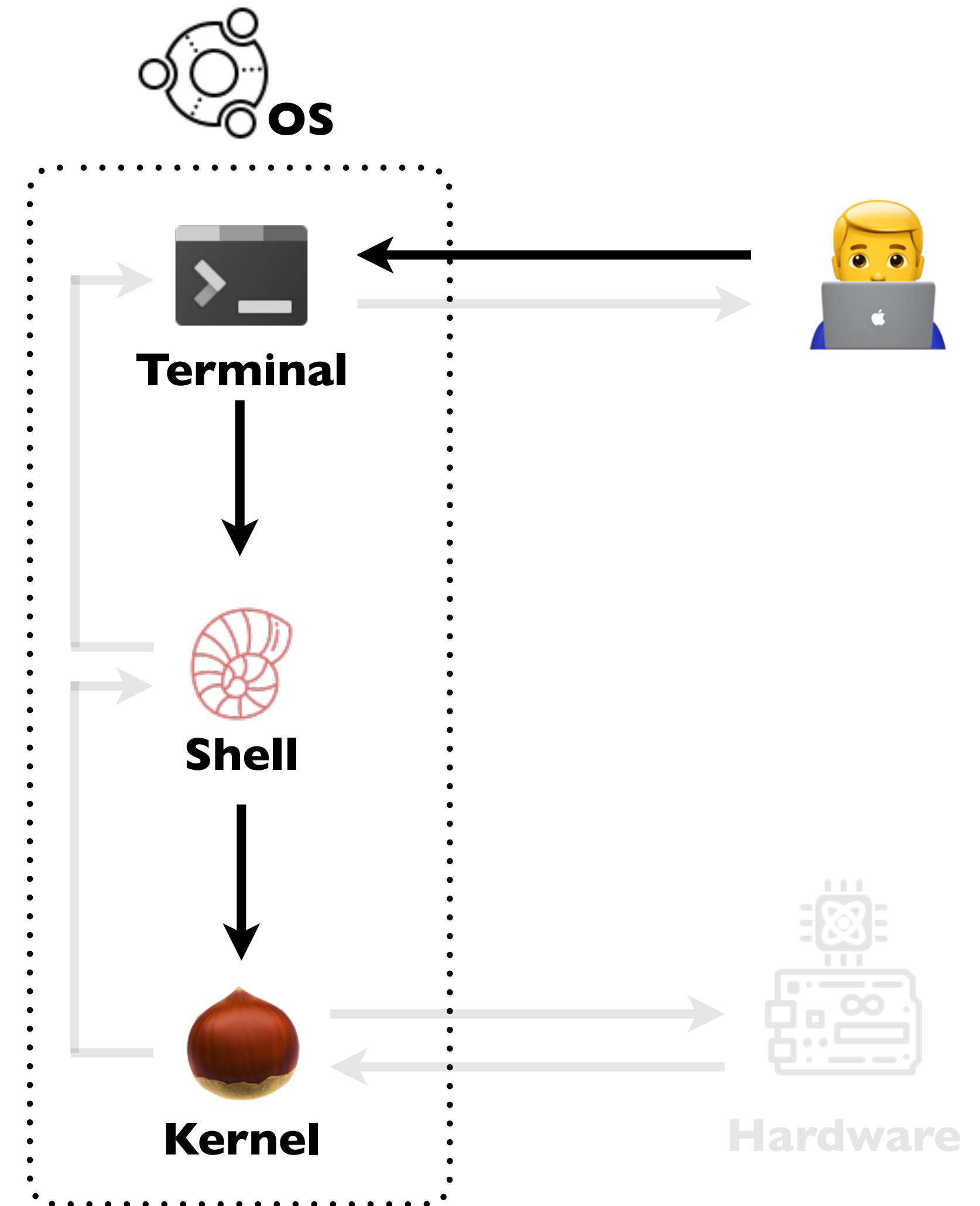
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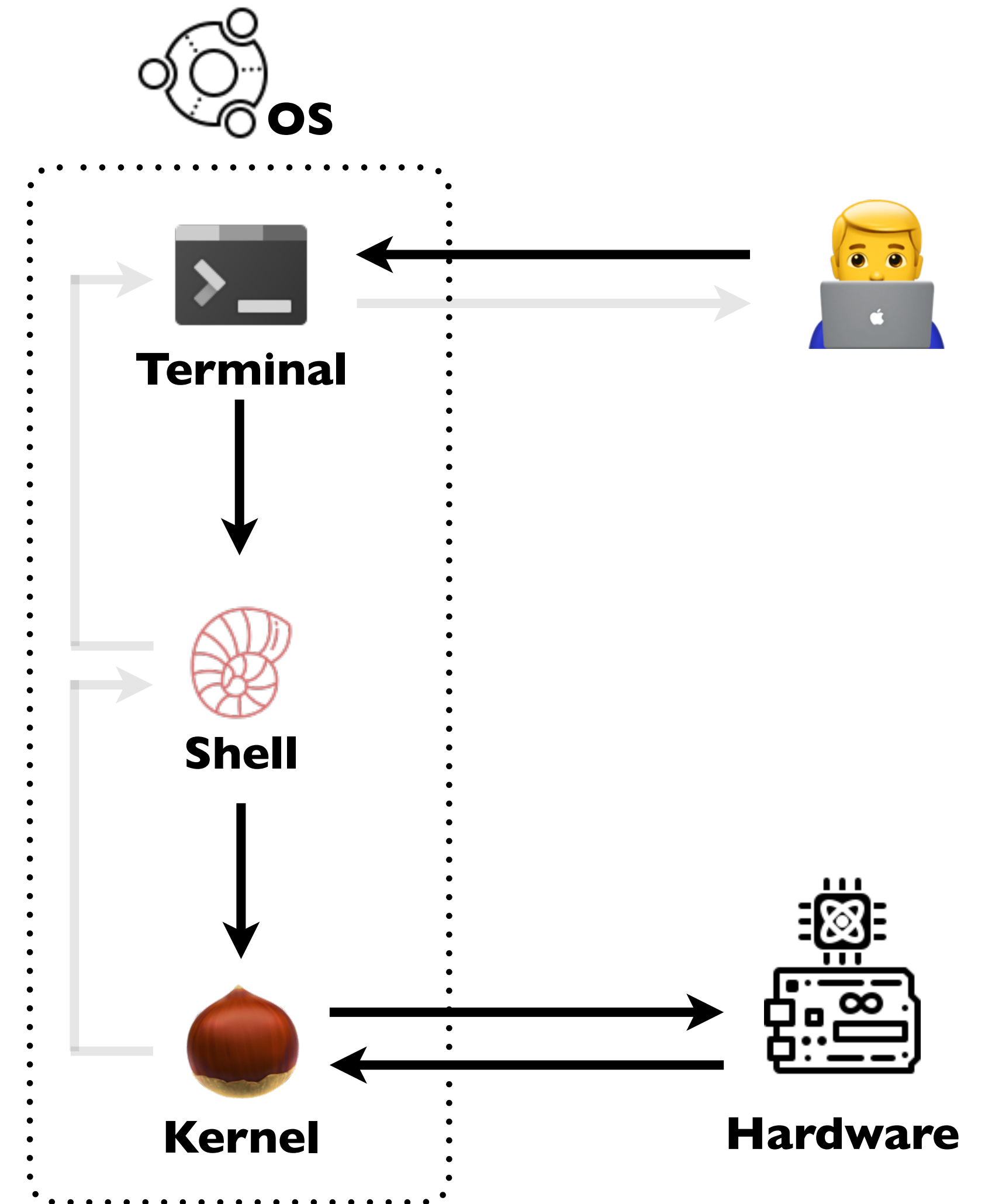
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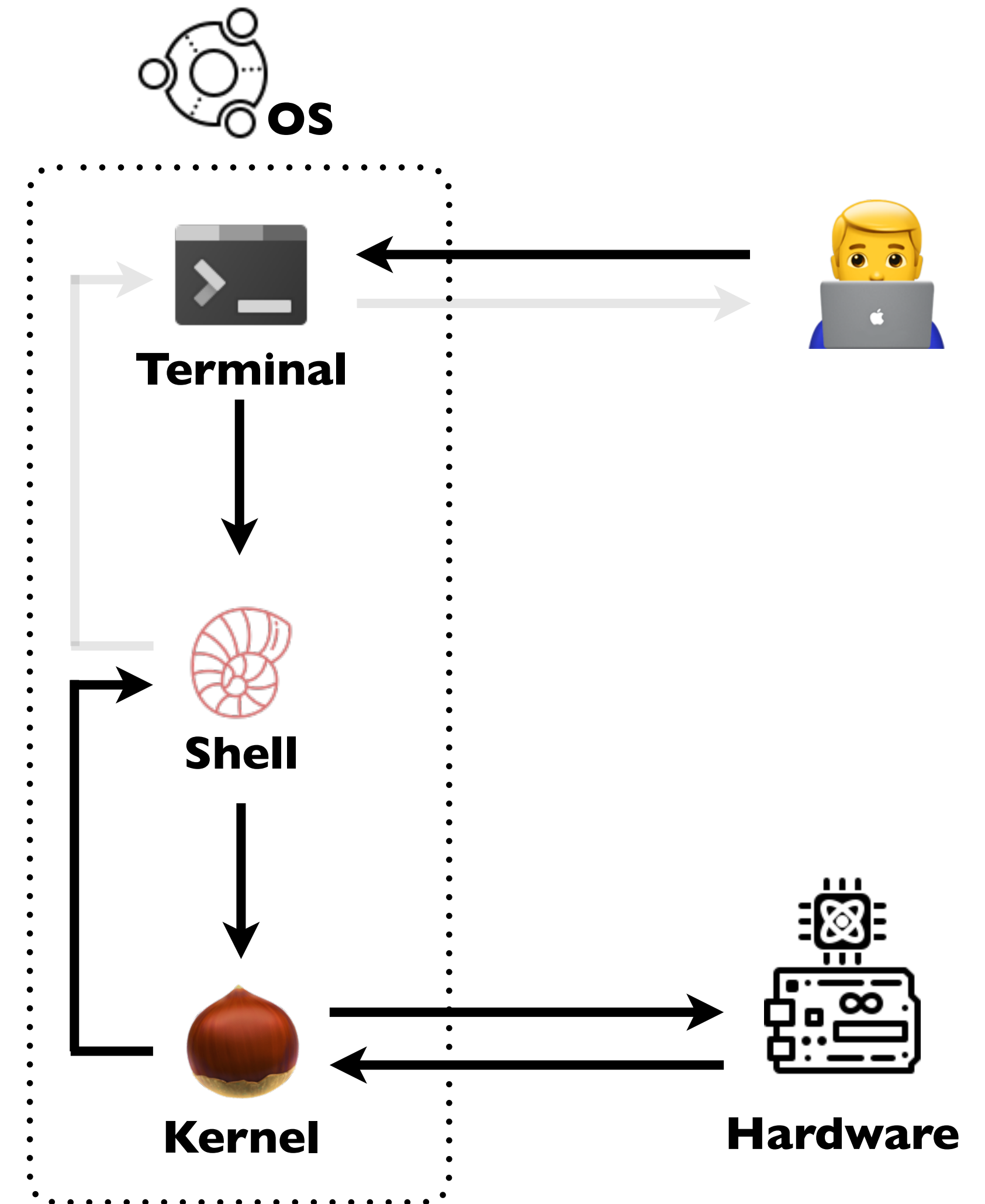
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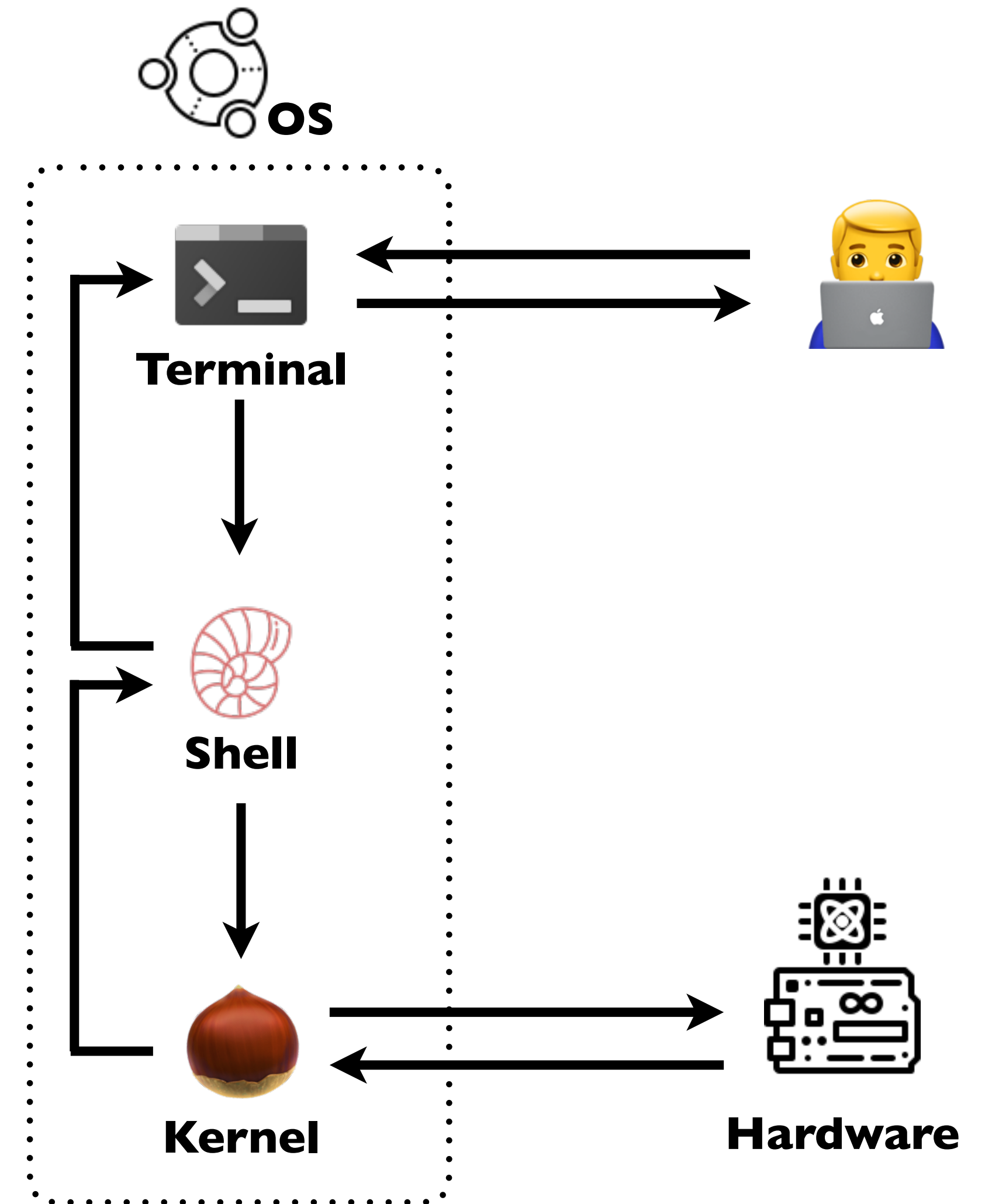
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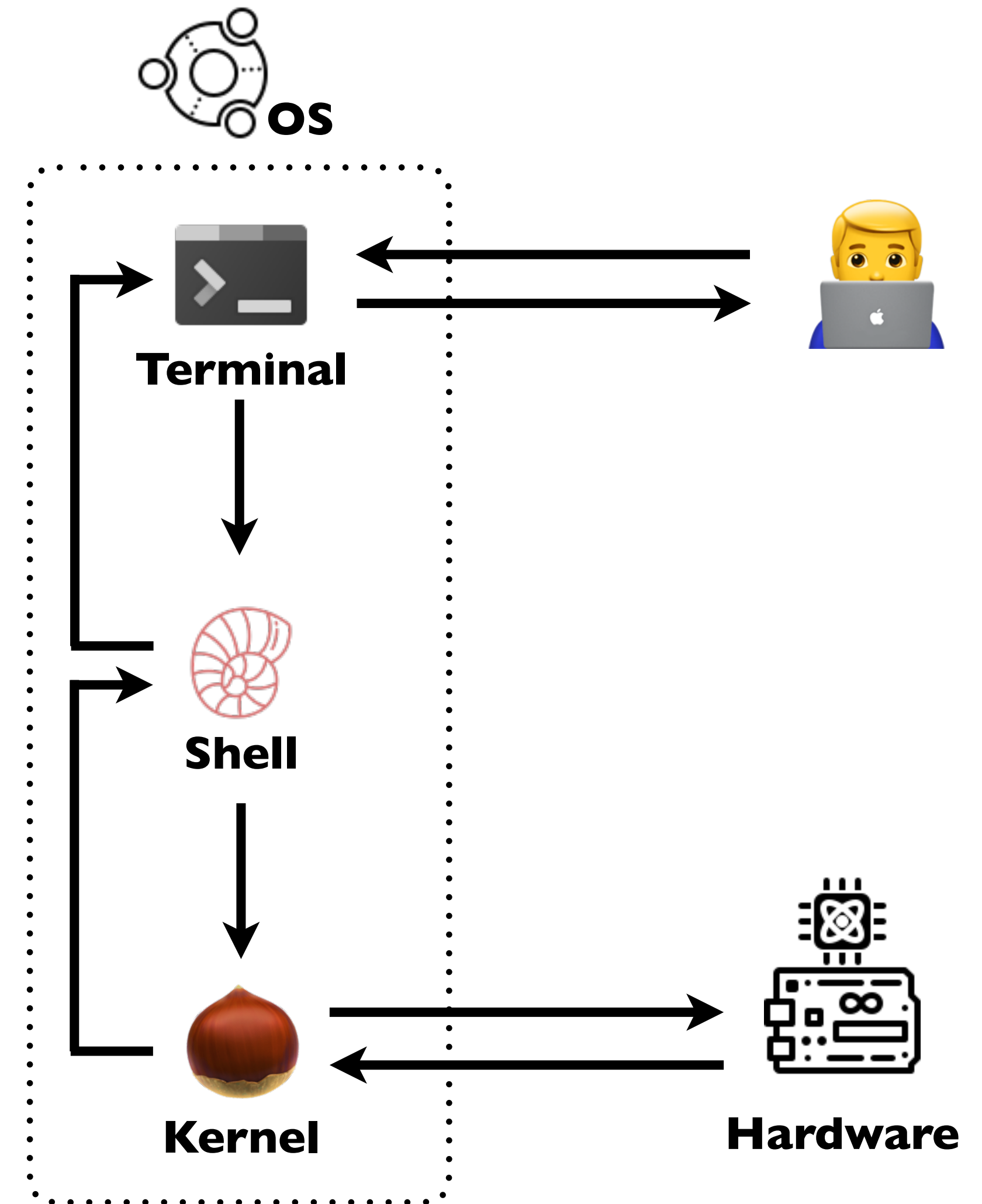
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Shells

General Syntax

Shell

```
Desktop/ $ <cmd> -opt1 -opt2 -opt3 arg1 arg2 arg3
```

- Desktop/ : current directory
- \$: regular user
- <cmd> : shell command
- -opt1 -opt2 -opt3 : options
- arg1 arg2 arg3 : arguments

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- **\$** : regular user
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Shells

Example

Shell

```
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Example

```
Desktop/ $ grep -i -r -n "error" /var/log /home/user/logs
```

```
Desktop/ $ grep -irn "error" /var/log /home/user/logs
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Shells

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Shells

Users

User

- regular user
- root user

Shell

\$

#

Shells

Basic Commands

Print

```
$ echo "Hello World"
```

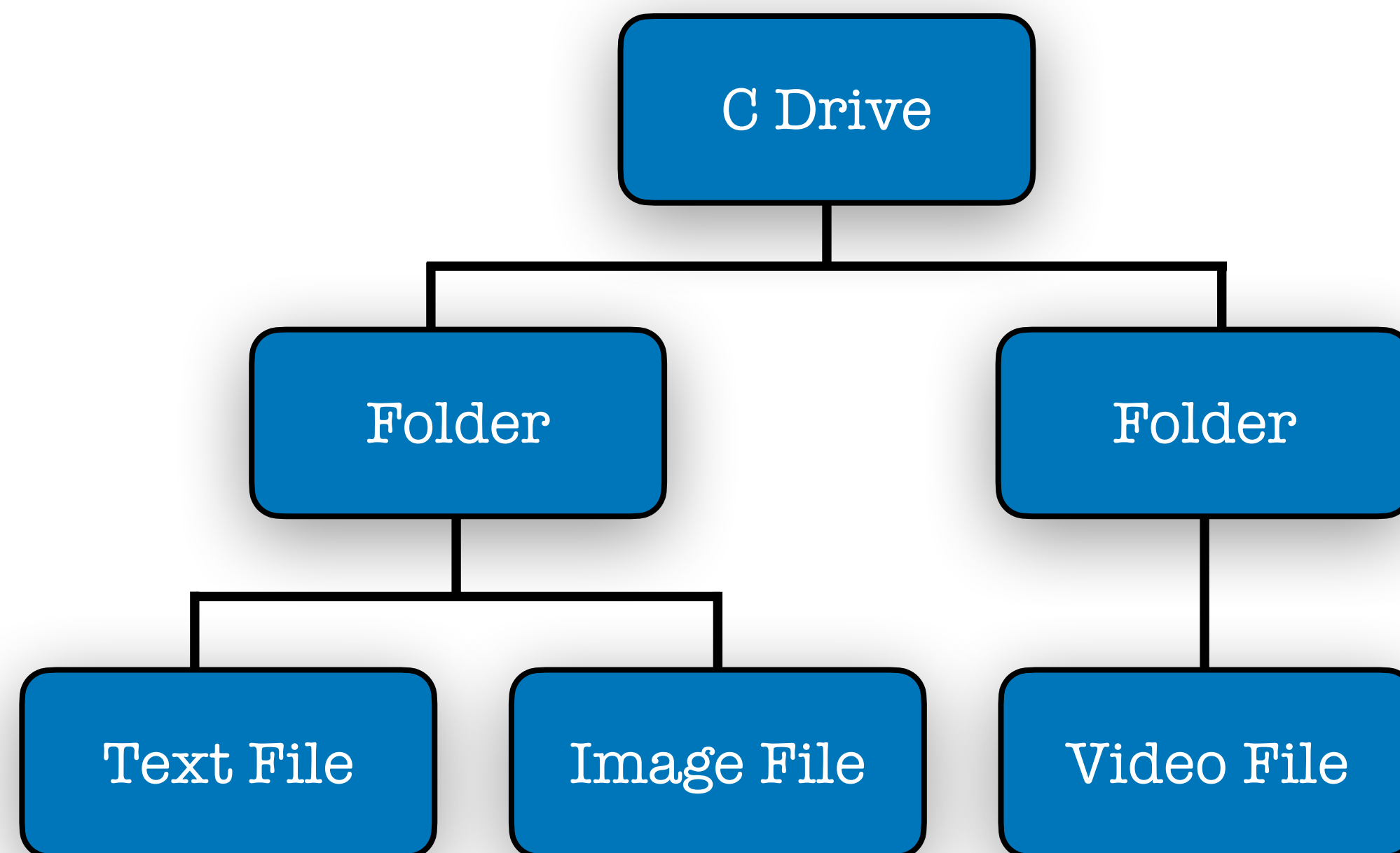
Help/Documentation

```
$ man ls
```

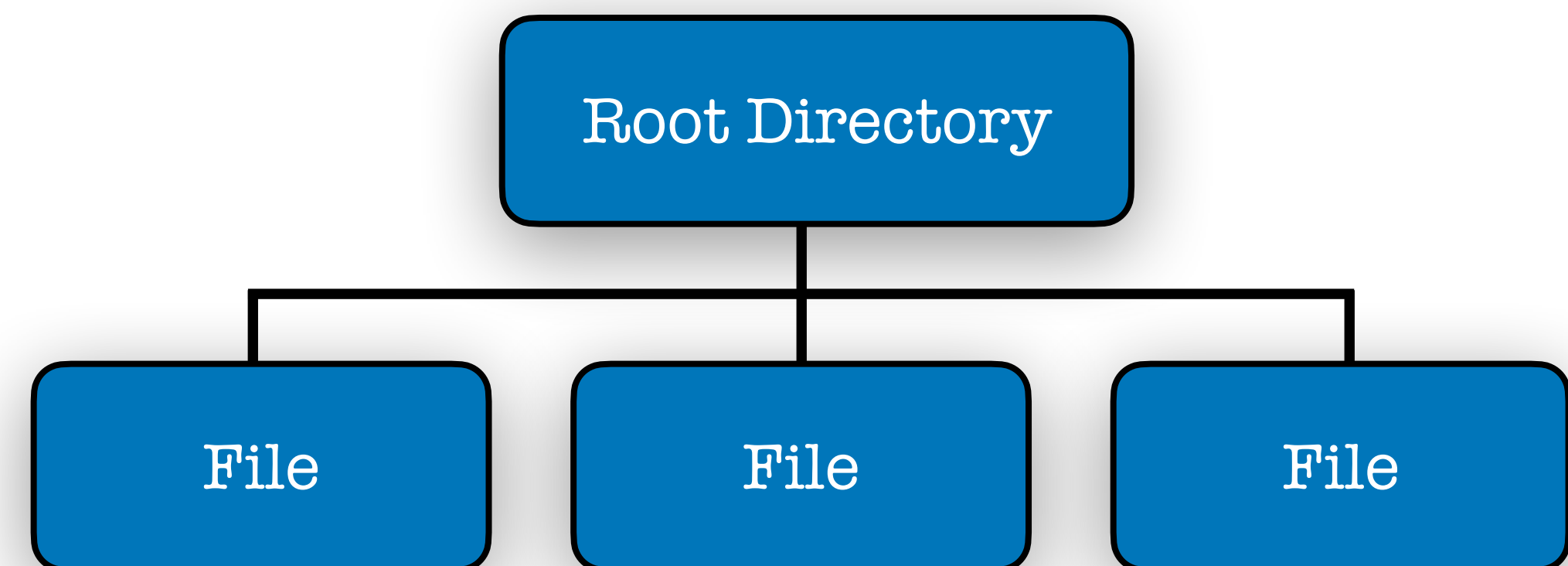
File System

Windows vs Unix-like OS

Windows



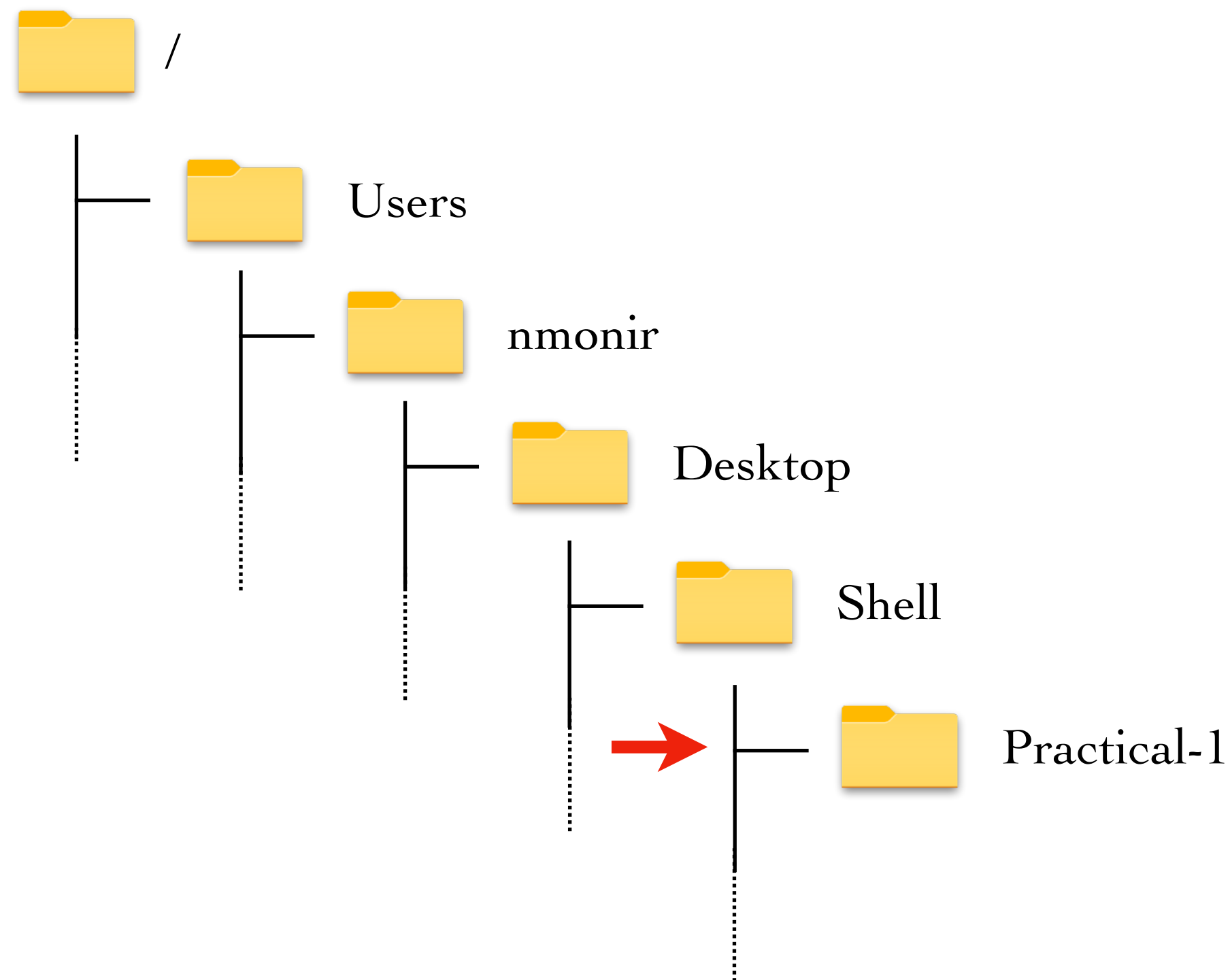
Unix-like OS



Navigating the File System

Absolute Path vs Relative Path

Tree



Absolute Path

```
>> /Users/nmonir/Desktop/Shell/Practical-1/
```

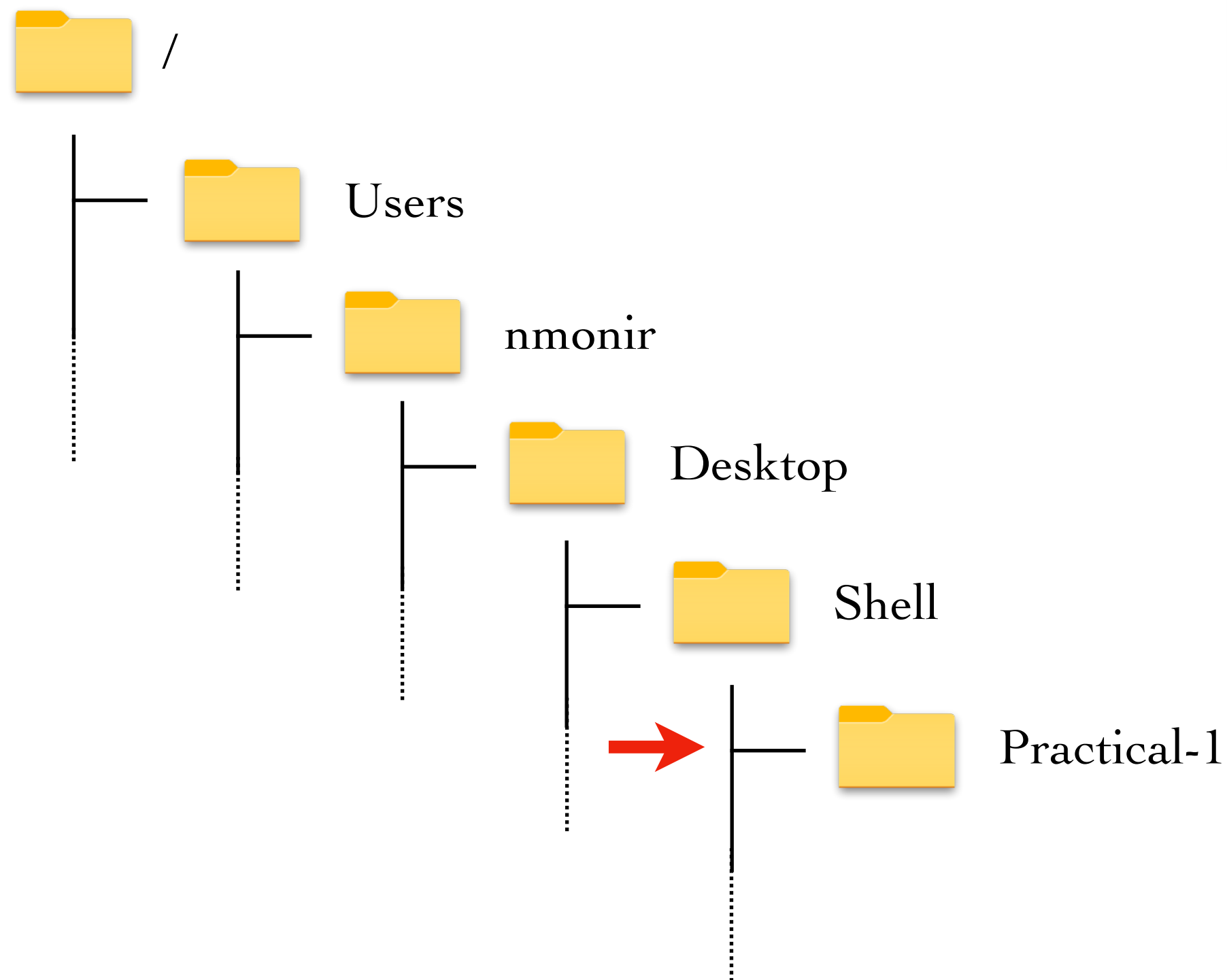
Relative Path

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>> Practical-1/
```

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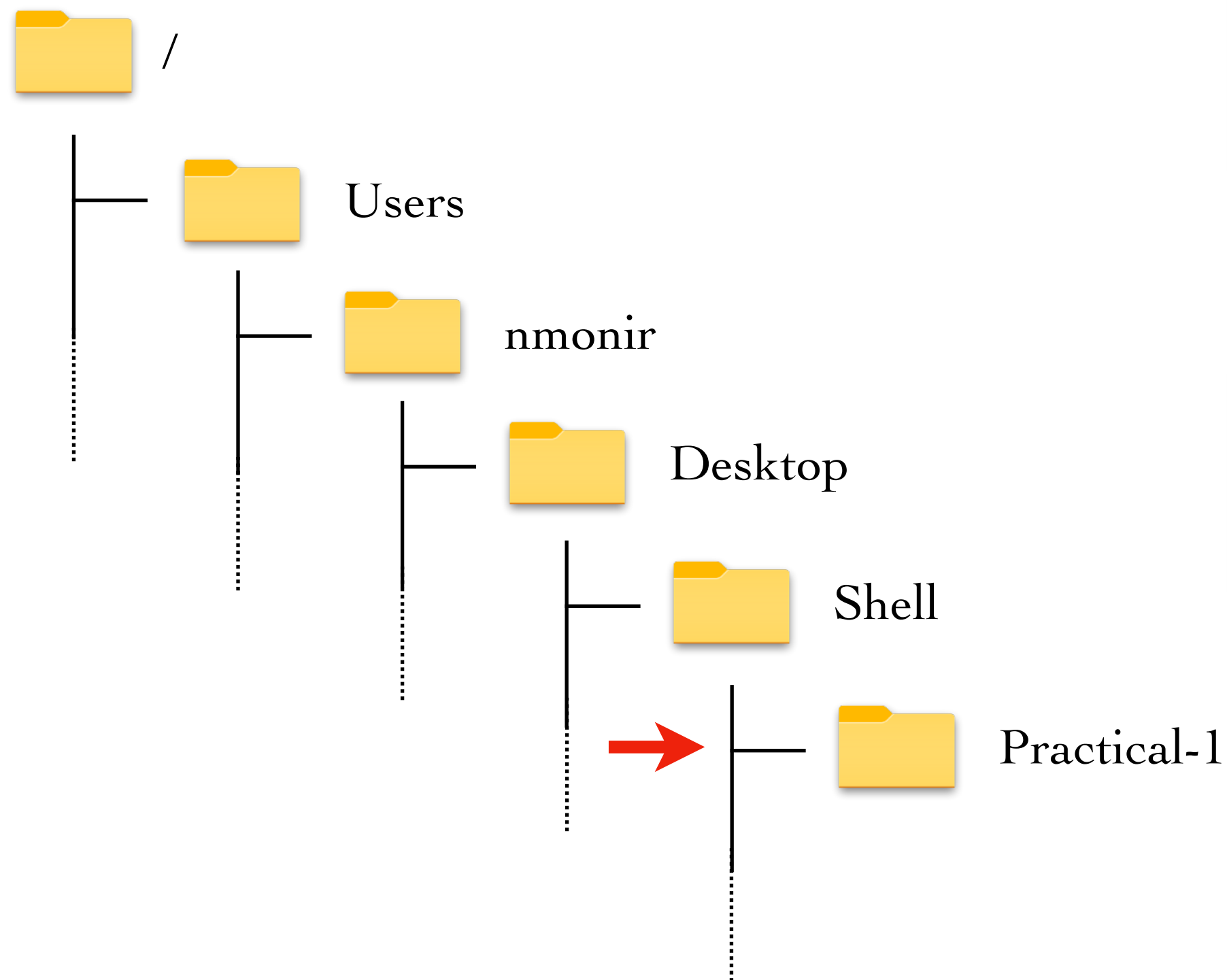
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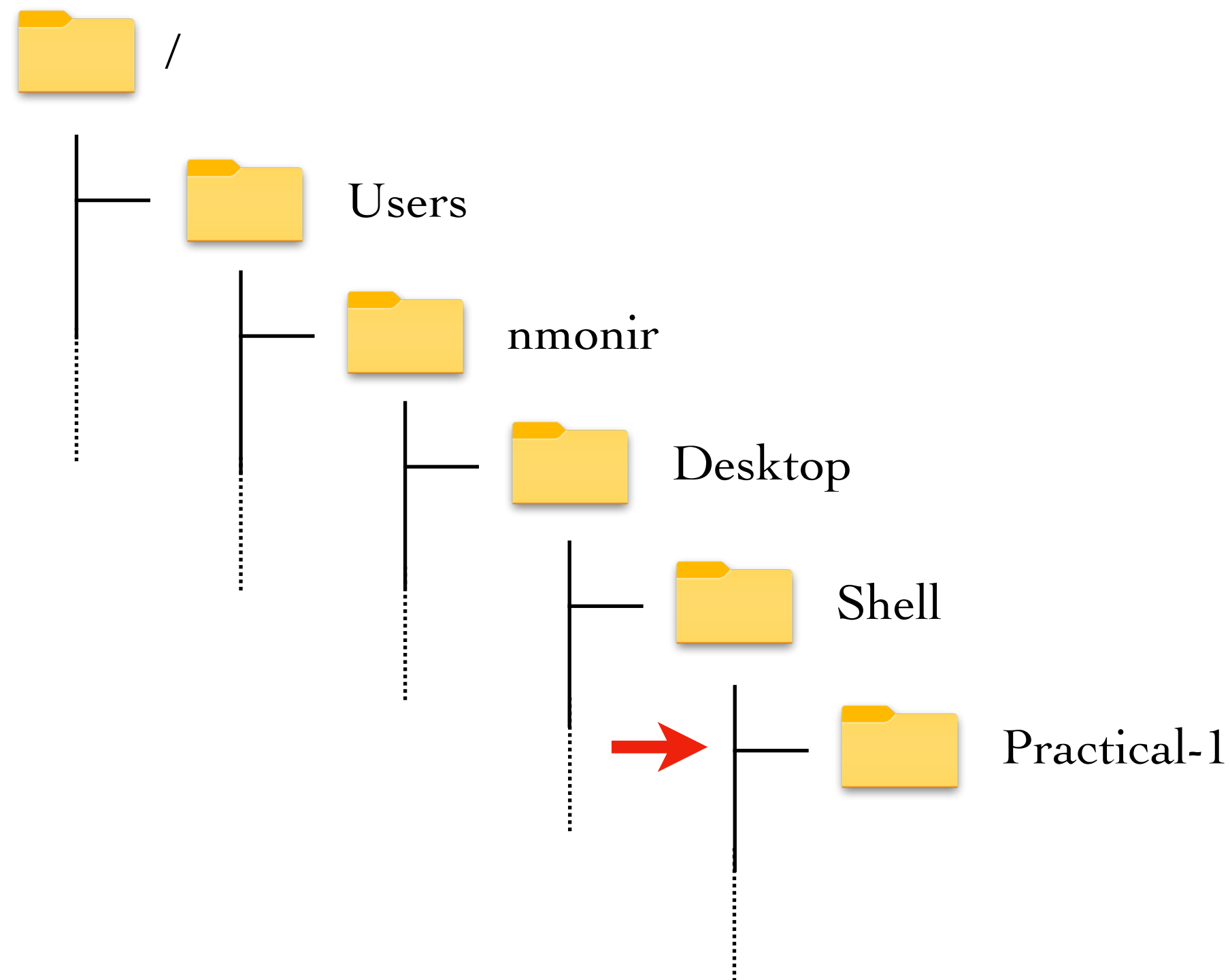
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>> Practical-1/
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Navigating the File System

Print Working Directory

Tree



Shell

```
Practical-1/ $ pwd
```

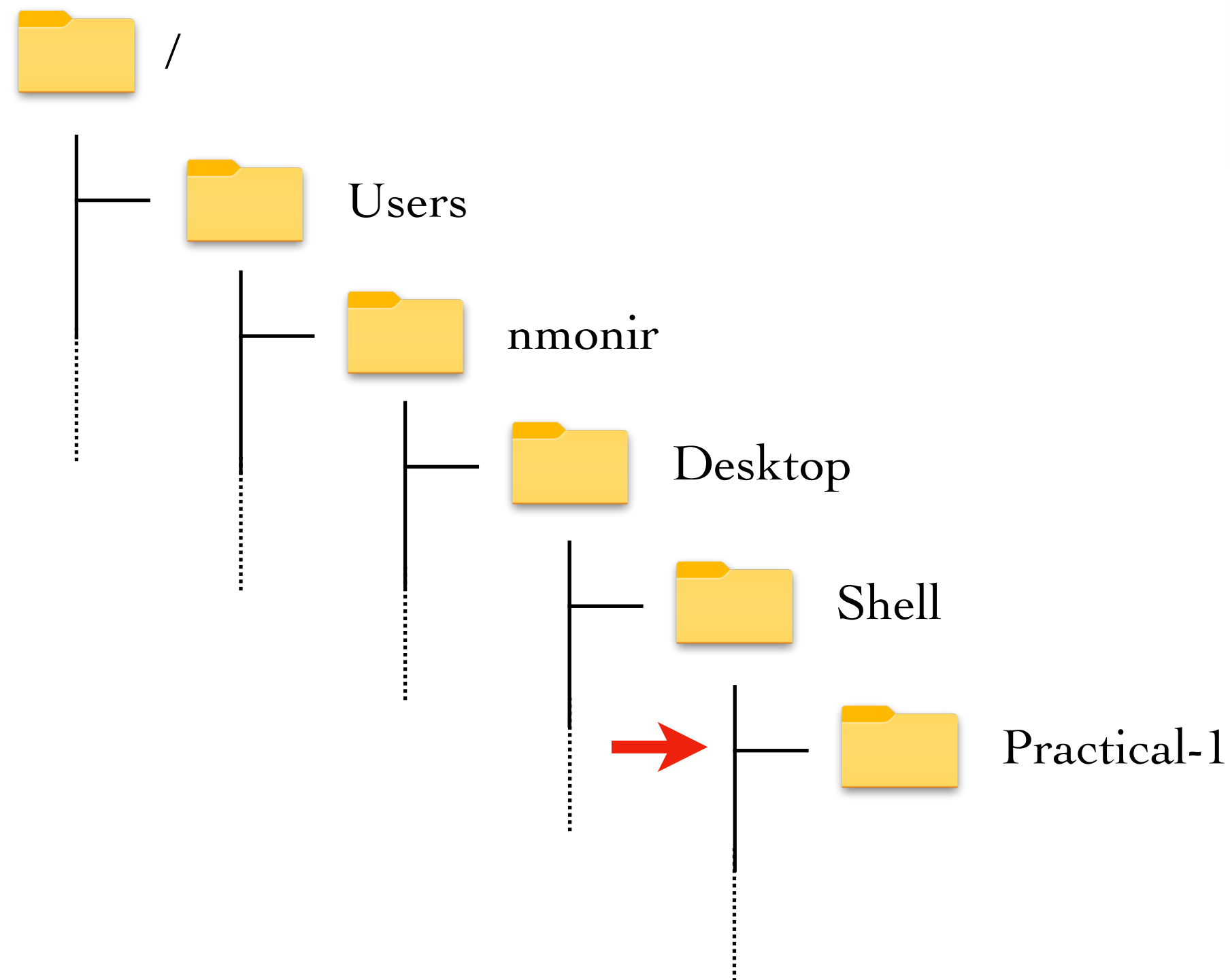
Output

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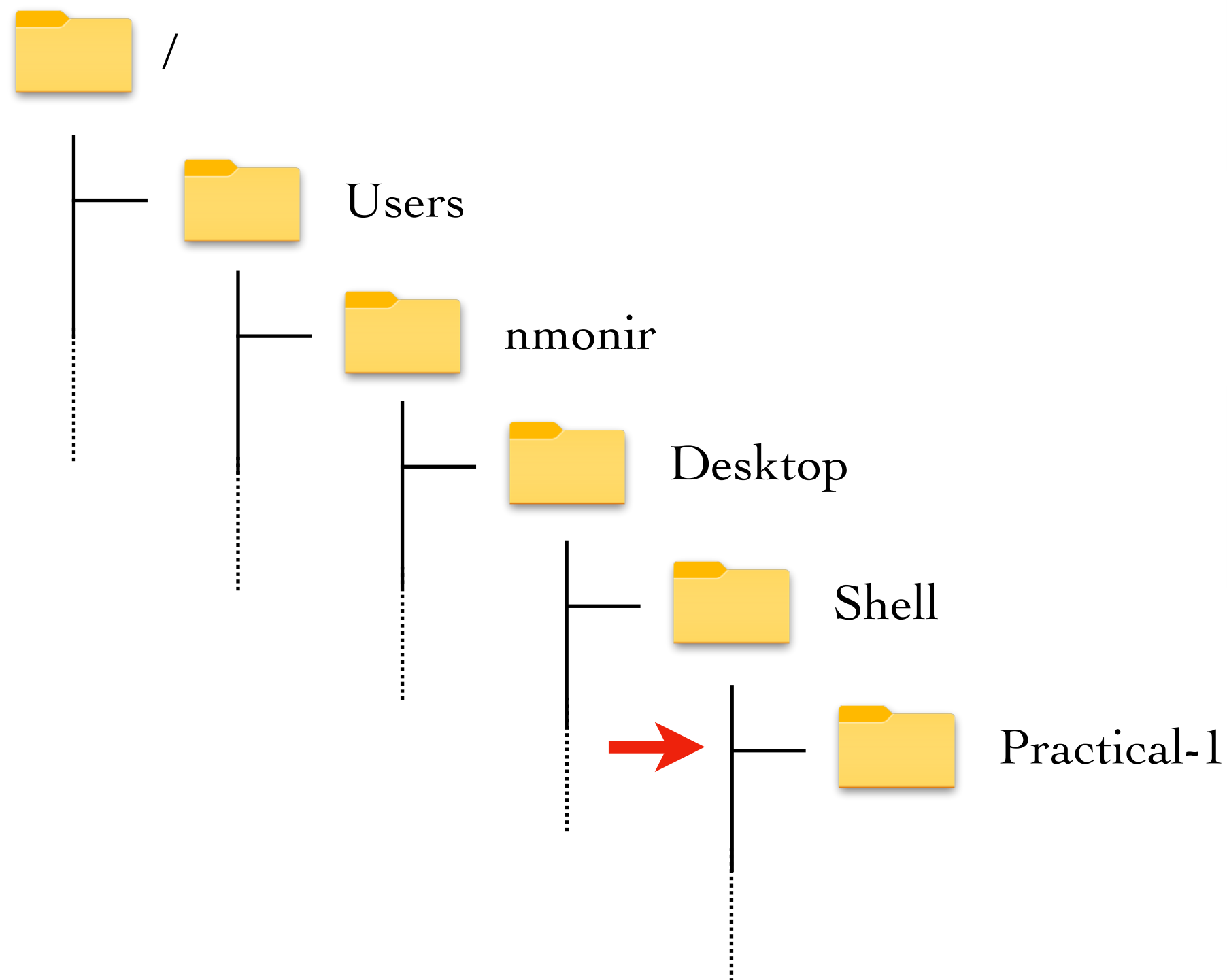
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Navigating the File System

Working Directories

/ Root working directory

• Current working directory

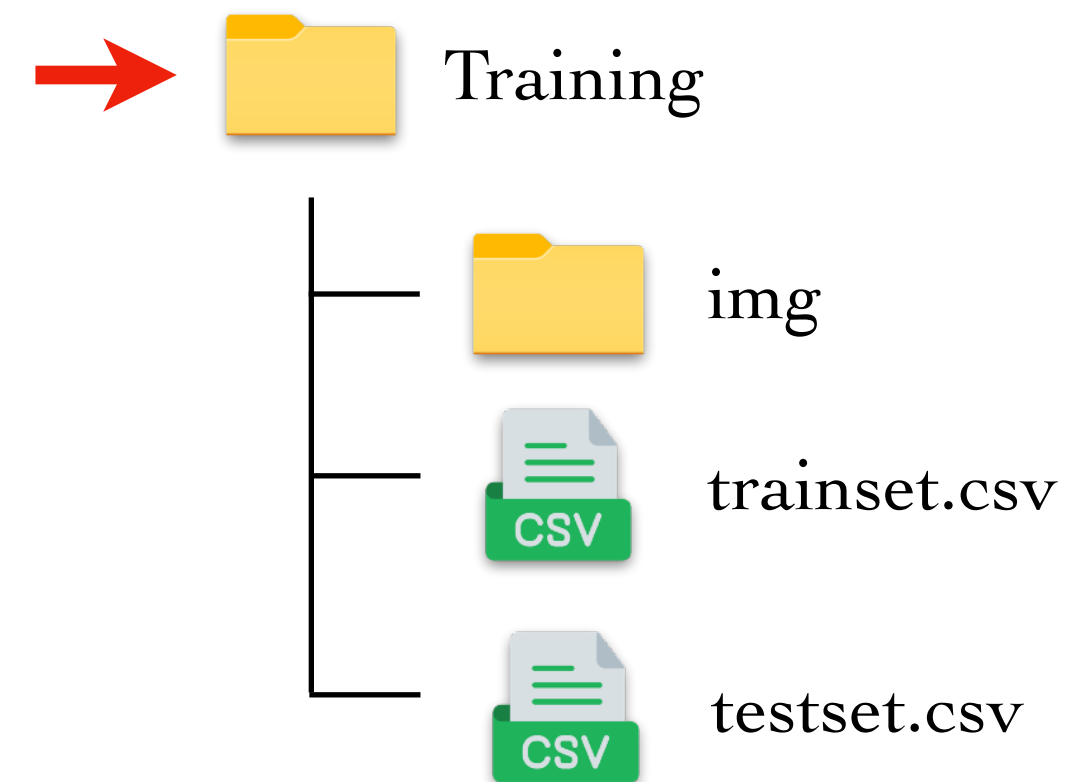
~ User working directory

.. Previous directory

Navigating the File System

List (files and directories)

Tree



Shell

```
Training/$ ls
```

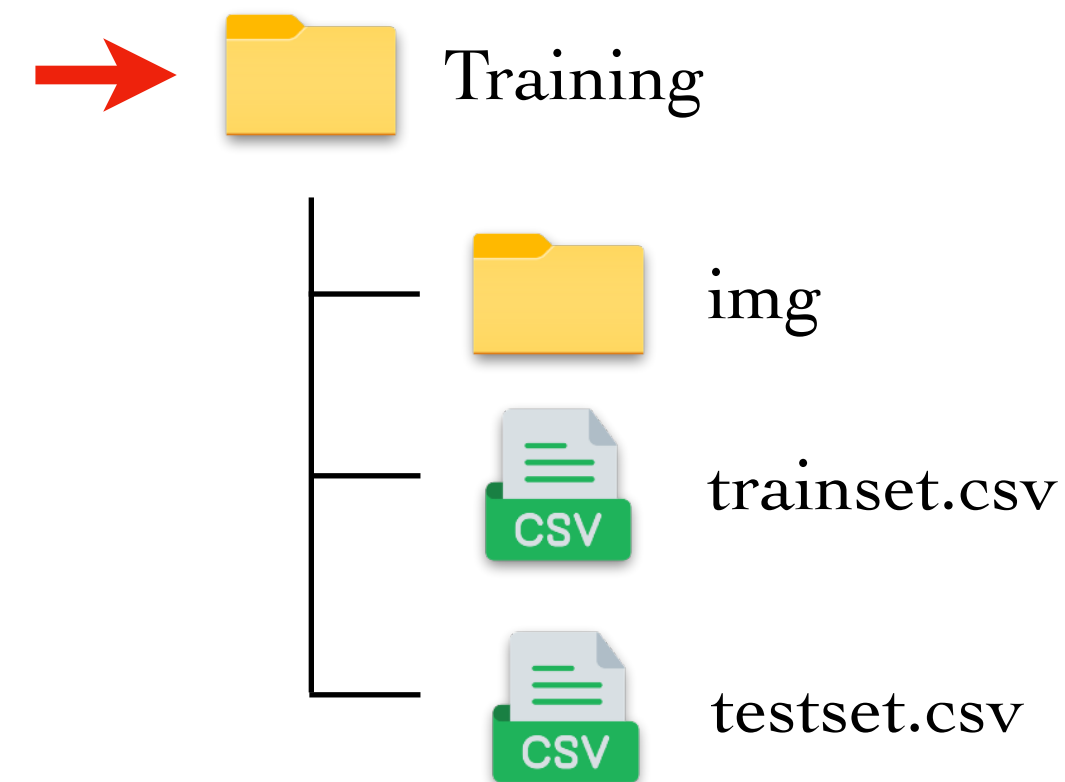
Output

```
>> img trainset.csv testset.csv
```

Navigating the File System

List (files and directories)

Tree



Shell

```
Training/$ ls
```

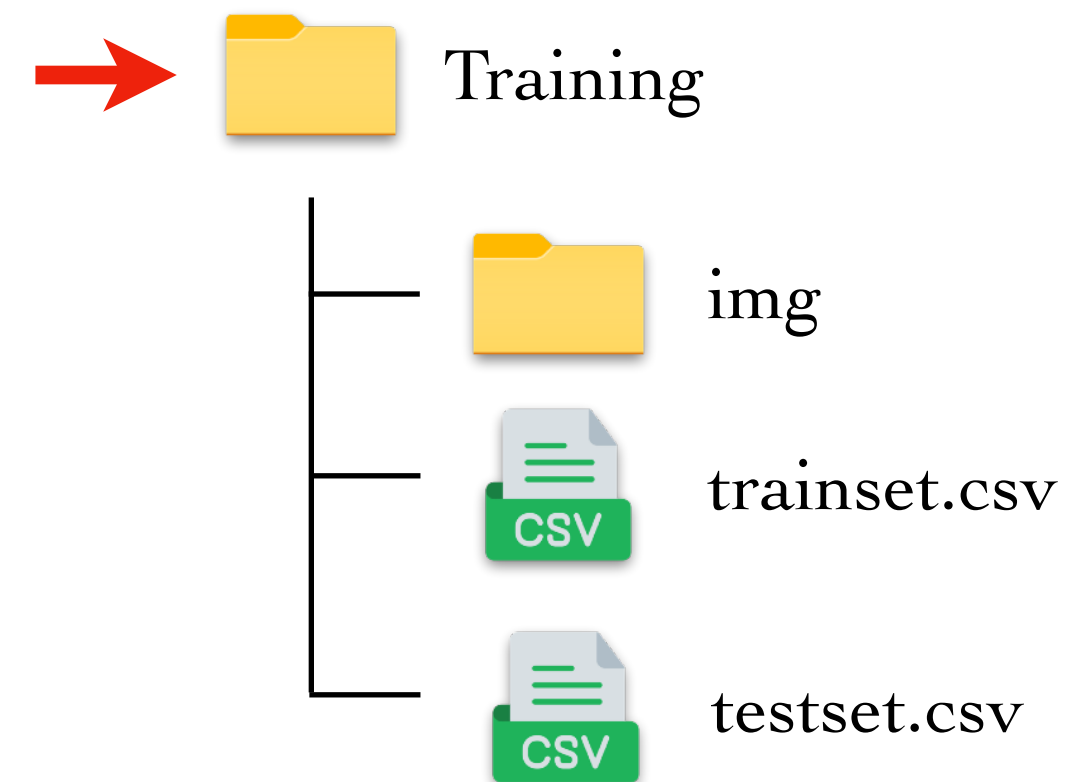
Output

```
>> img trainset.csv testset.csv
```

Navigating the File System

List (files and directories)

Tree



Shell

```
Training/$ ls
```

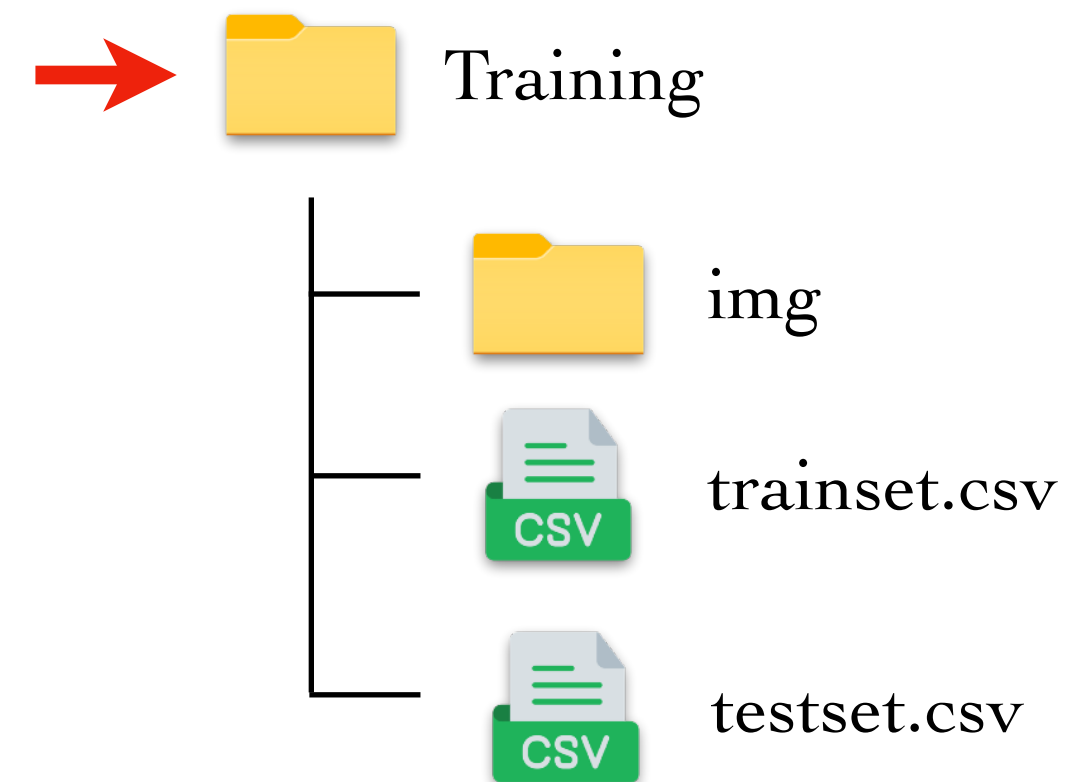
Output

```
>> img trainset.csv testset.csv
```

Navigating the File System

Change Directory

Tree



Shell

```
Training/$ cd img/
```

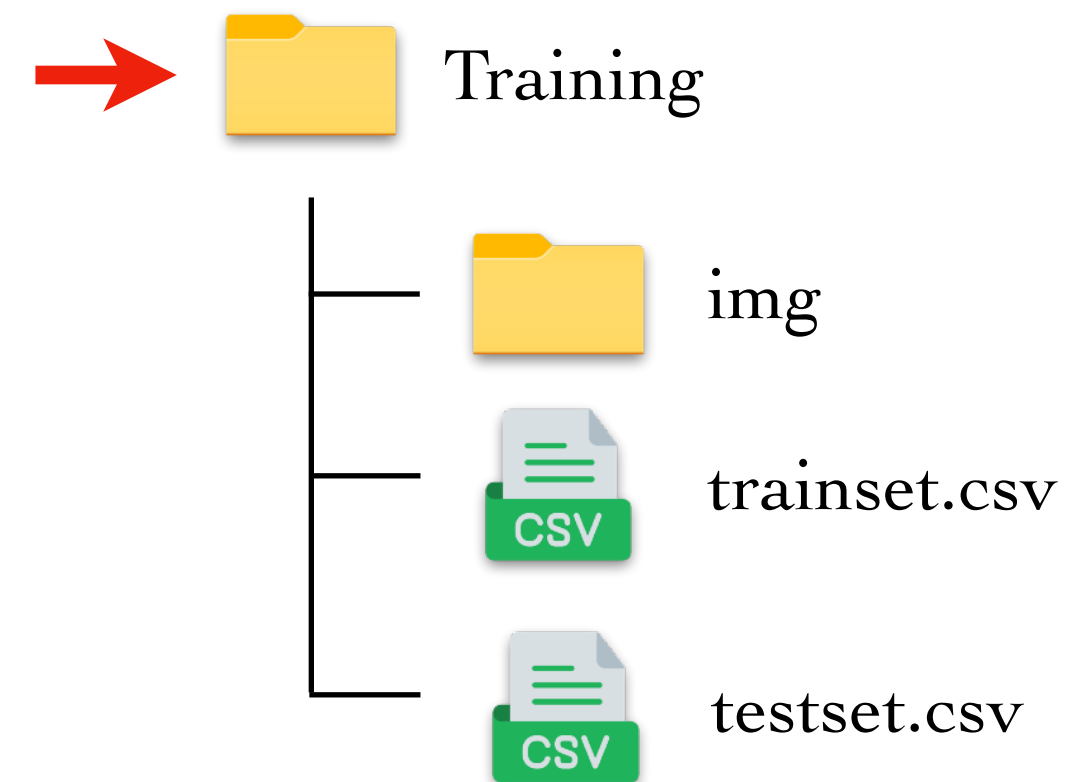
Output

```
img/$
```


Navigating the File System

Change Directory

Tree



Shell

```
Training/$ cd img/
```

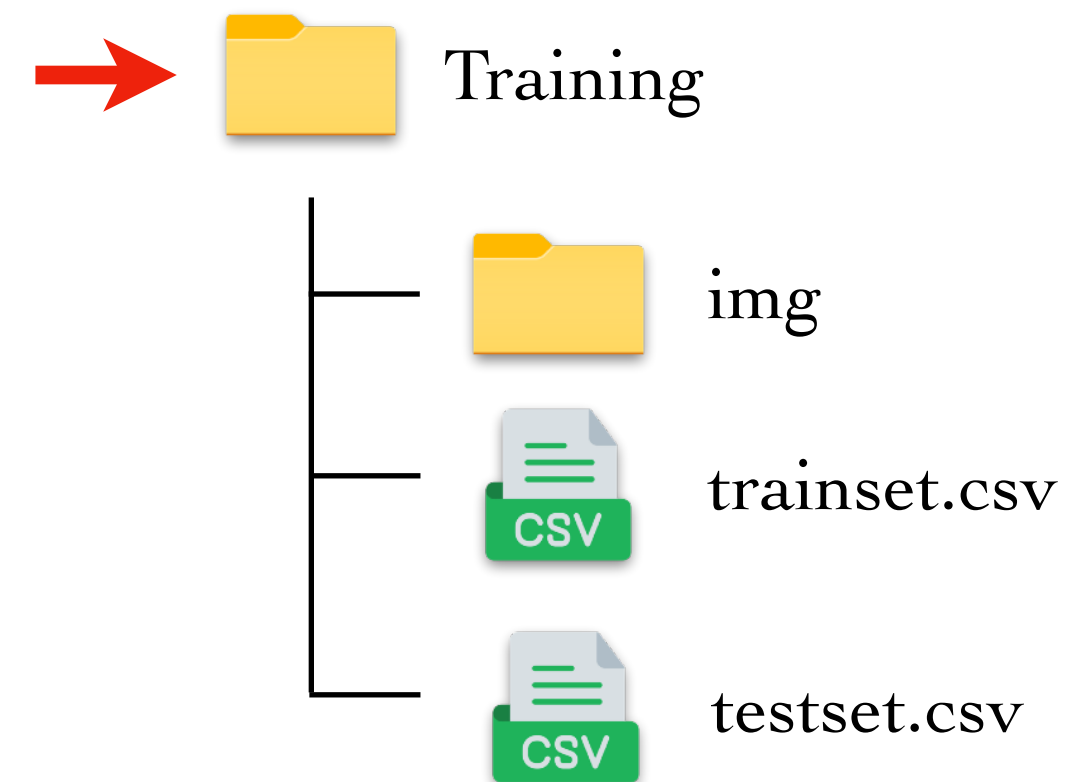
Output

```
img/$
```

Navigating the File System

Change Directory

Tree



Shell

```
Training/$ cd img/
```

Output

```
img/$
```

Shells

Question Time ?

I am in my user working directory. What happens if I run the following command ?

```
...$ cd ~
```

A Change to Root directory

B Change to Desktop directory

C One step back

D Nothing

Shells

Question Time ?

I am in my user working directory. What happens if I run the following command ?

```
...$ cd ~
```

A Change to Root directory

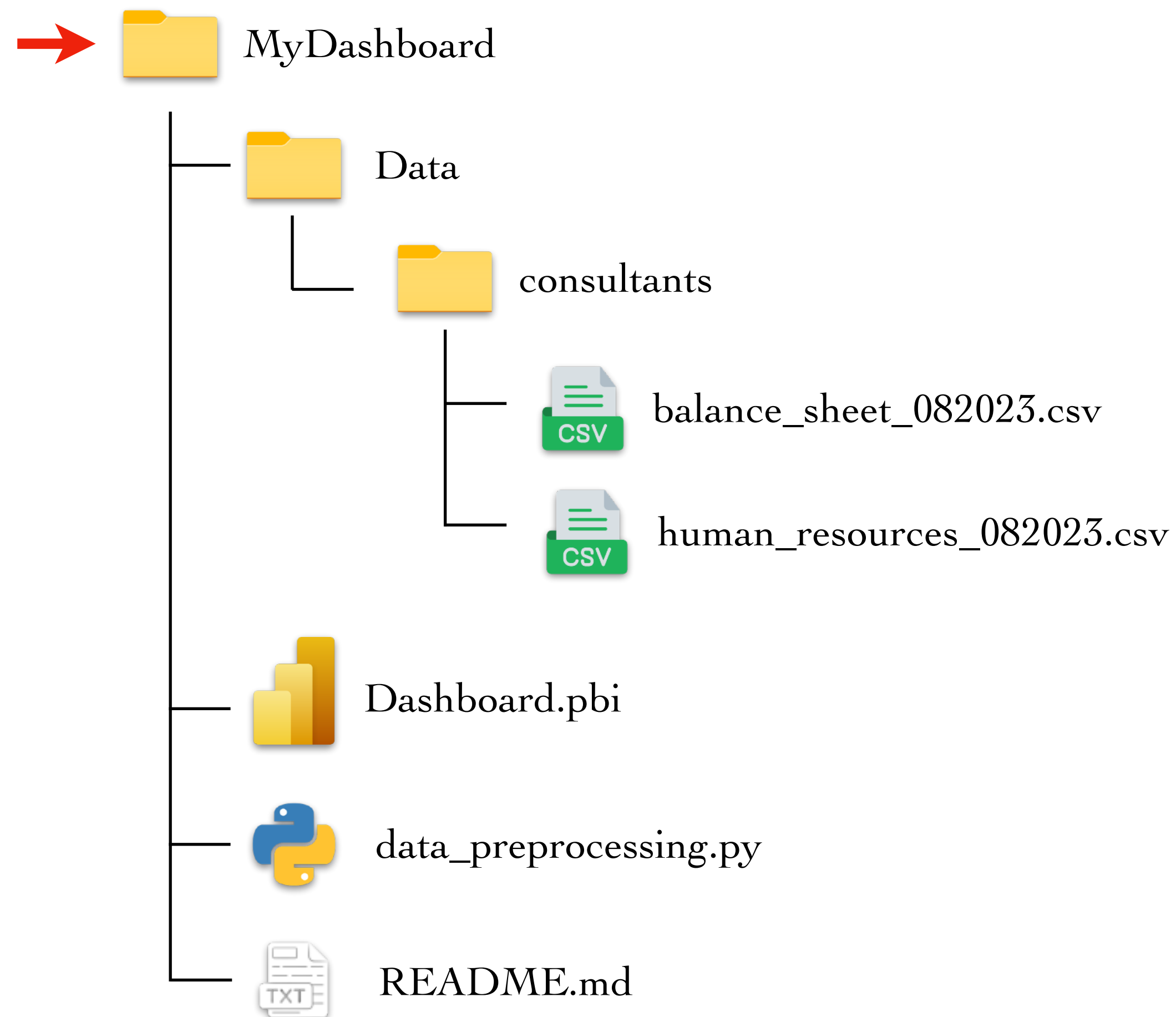
B Change to Desktop directory

C One step back

D Nothing

Navigating the File System

Question 1



What is the depth of  balance_sheet_082023.csv ?

A

1

B

2

C

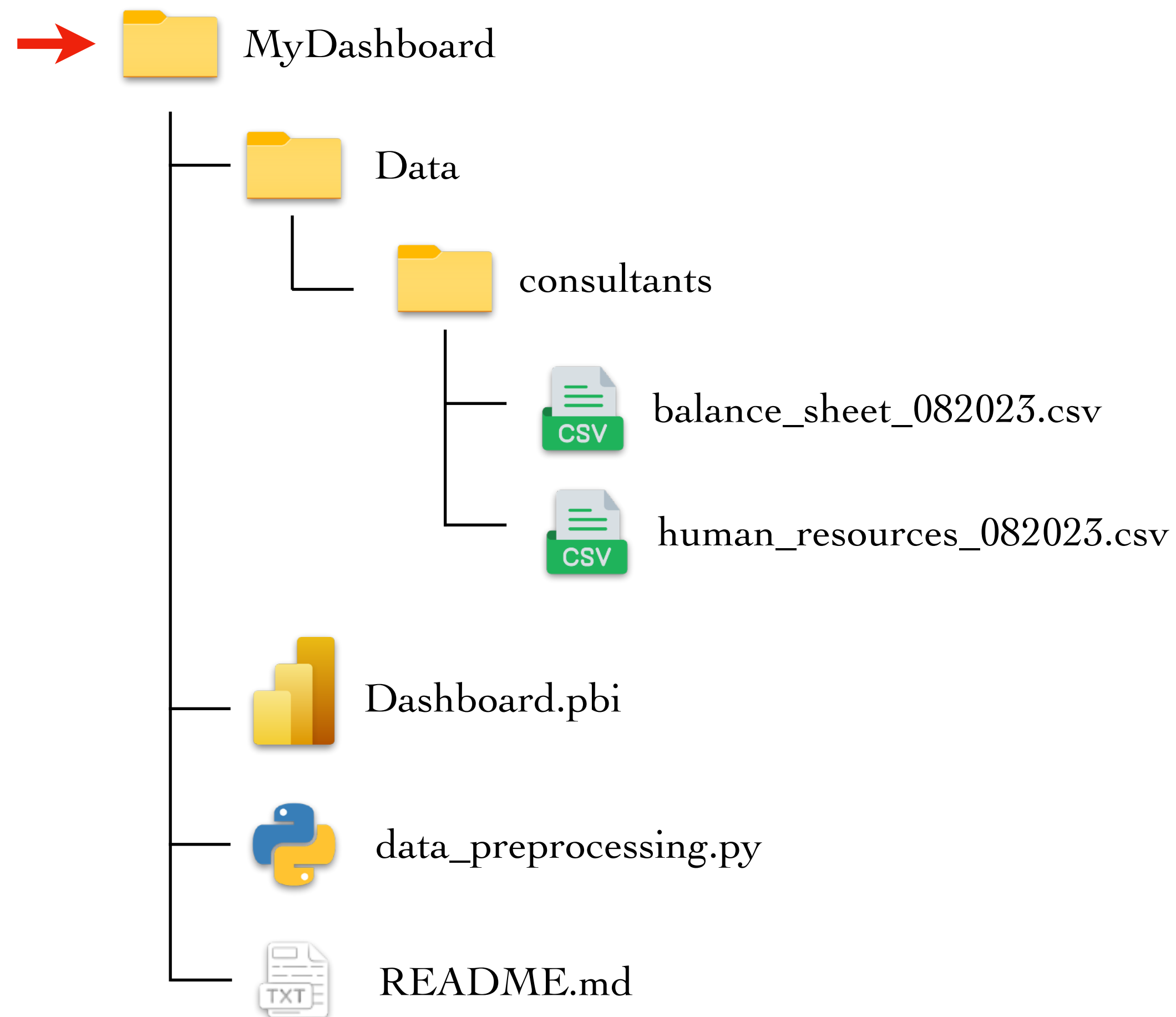
3

D

4

Navigating the File System

Question 1



What is the depth of  balance_sheet_082023.csv ?

A

1

B

2

C

3

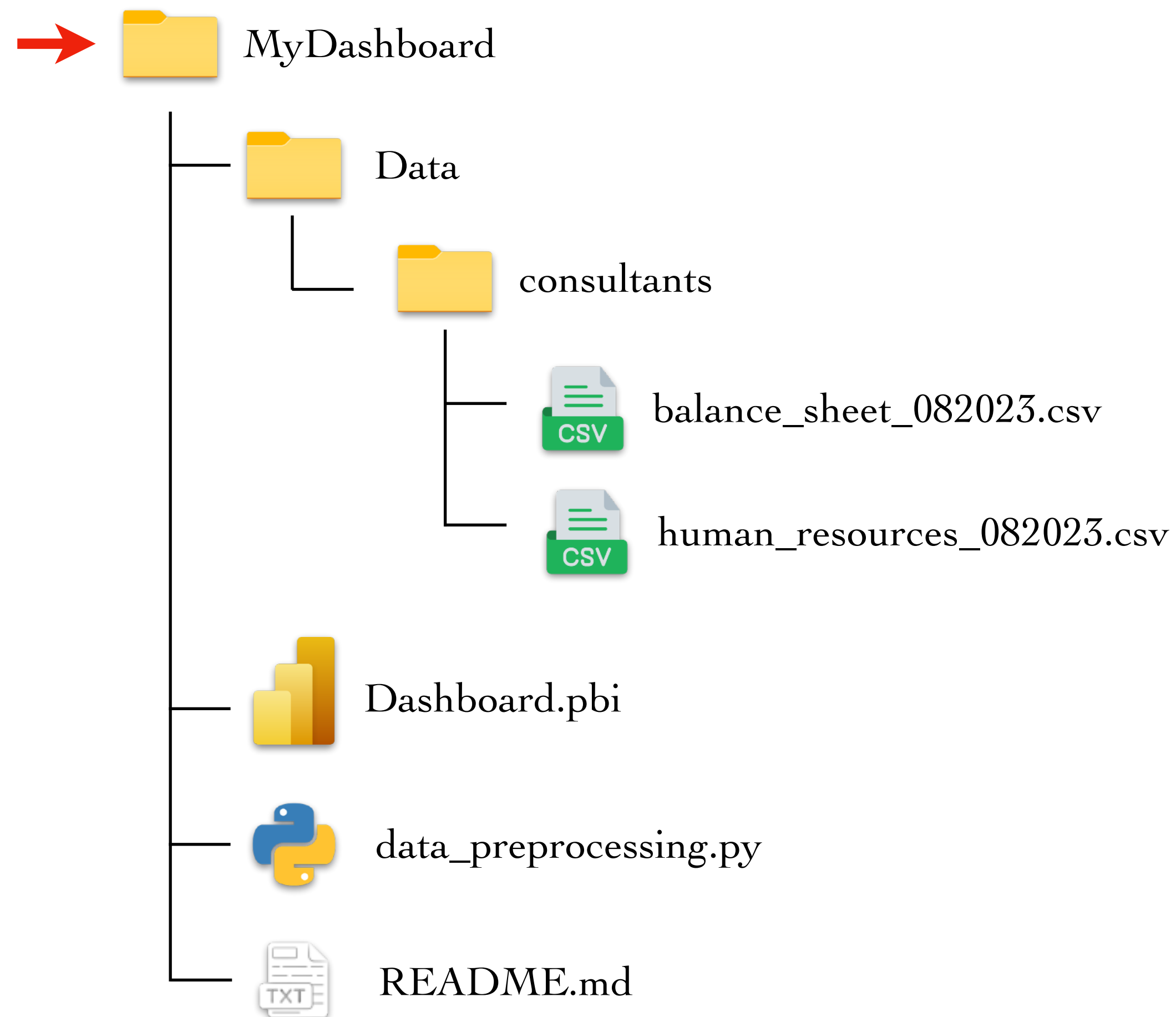
D

4

Navigating the File System

Question 2

Which command allows you to display the list of files in  consultants ?



A `ls consultants`

B `cd Data/Consultants`

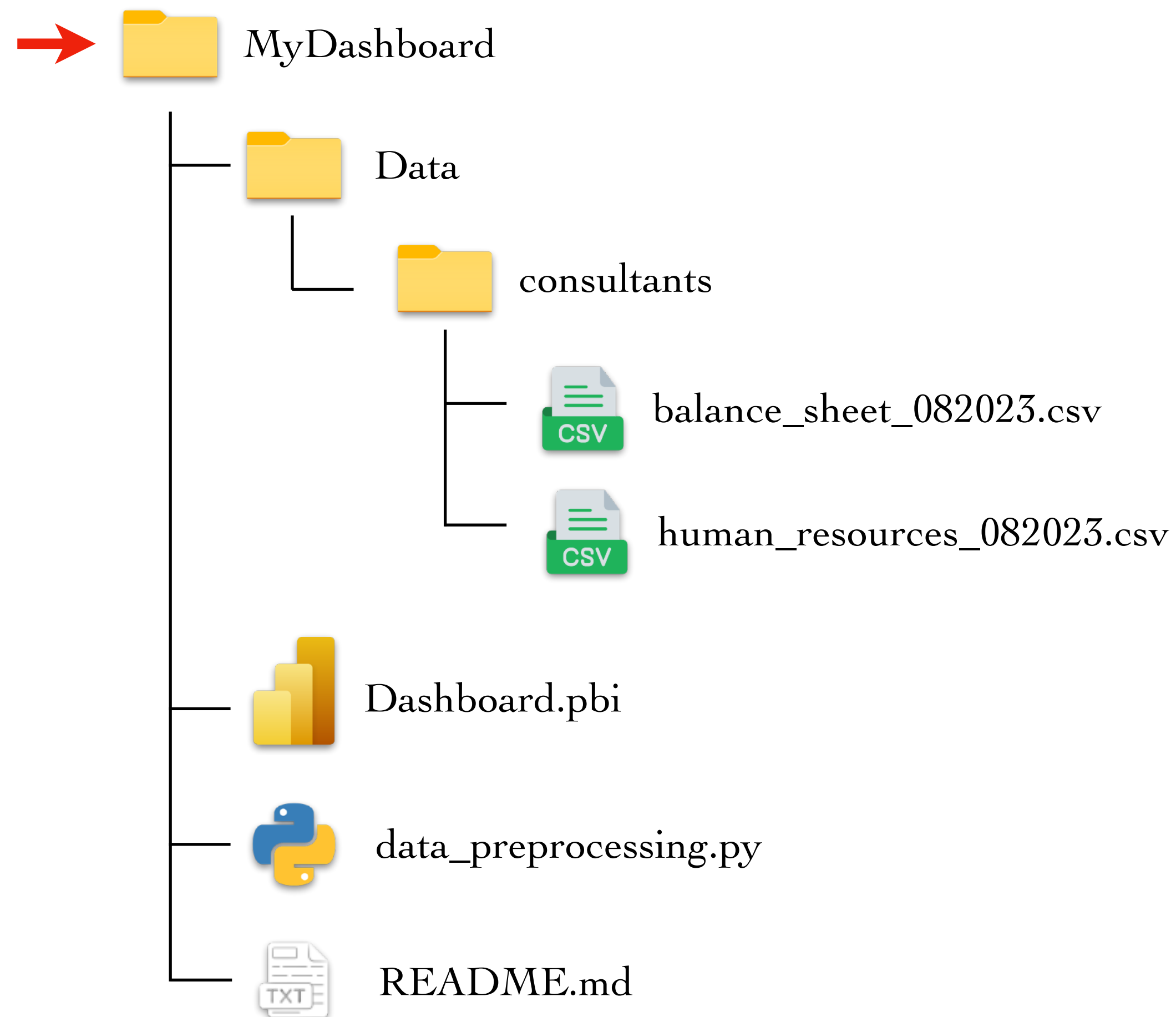
C `ls Data/Consultants`

D `ls Data/consultants`

Navigating the File System

Question 2

Which command allows you to display the list of files in  consultants ?



A

ls consultants

B

cd Data/Consultants

C

ls Data/Consultants

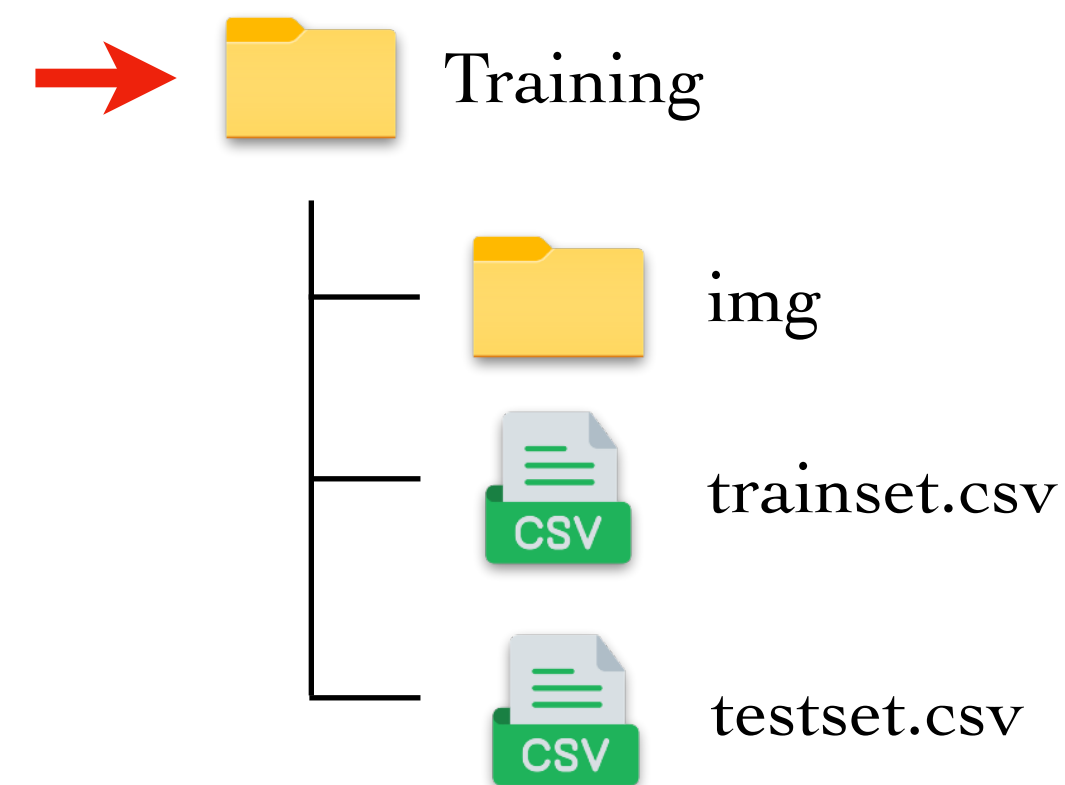
D

ls Data/consultants

File Operations

Creating a file (1/2)

Tree



Shell

```
Training/$ touch README.md
```

Output

```
Training/$
```

File Operations

Creating a file (2/2)

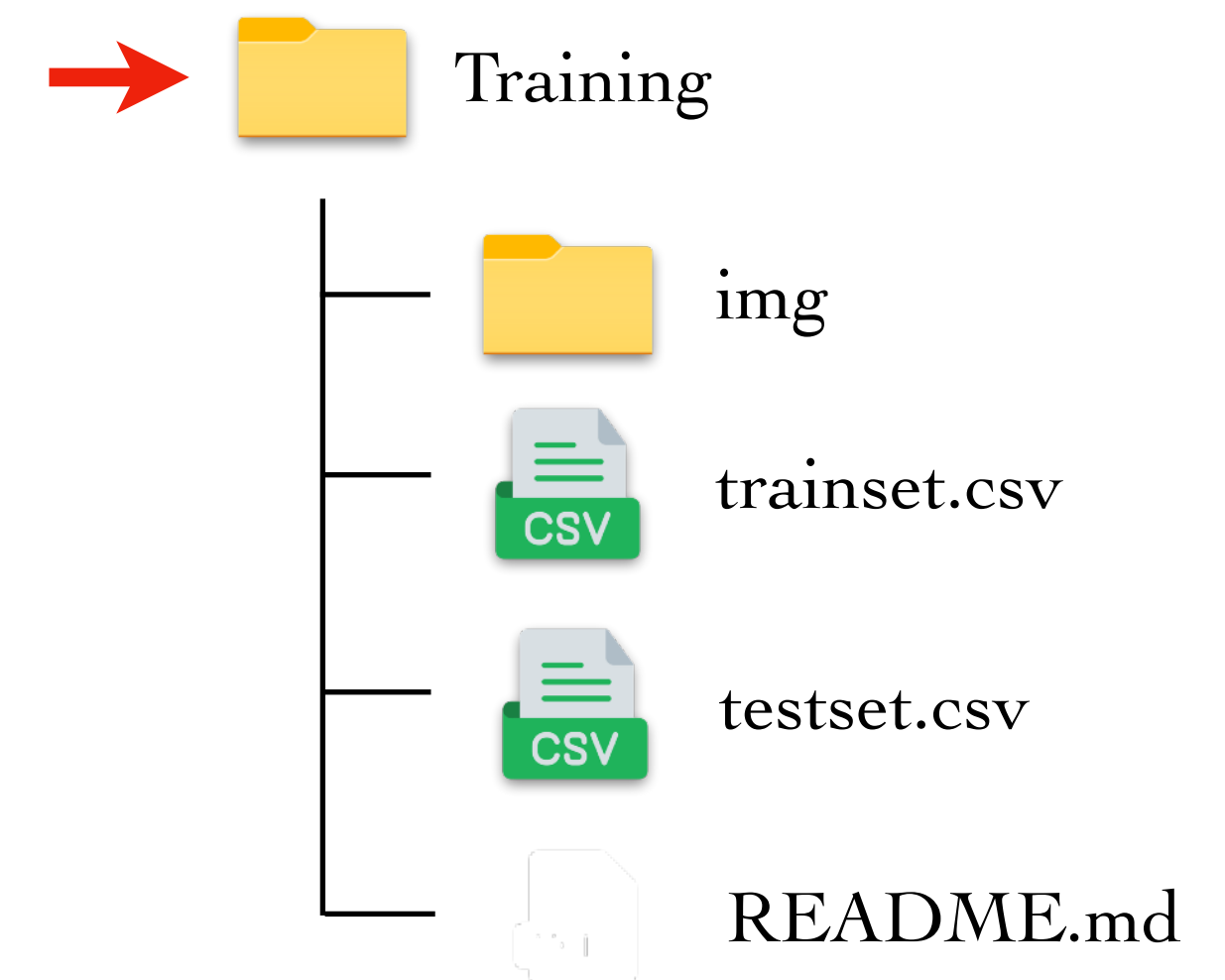
Shell

```
Training/$ touch README.md
```

Output

```
Training/$
```

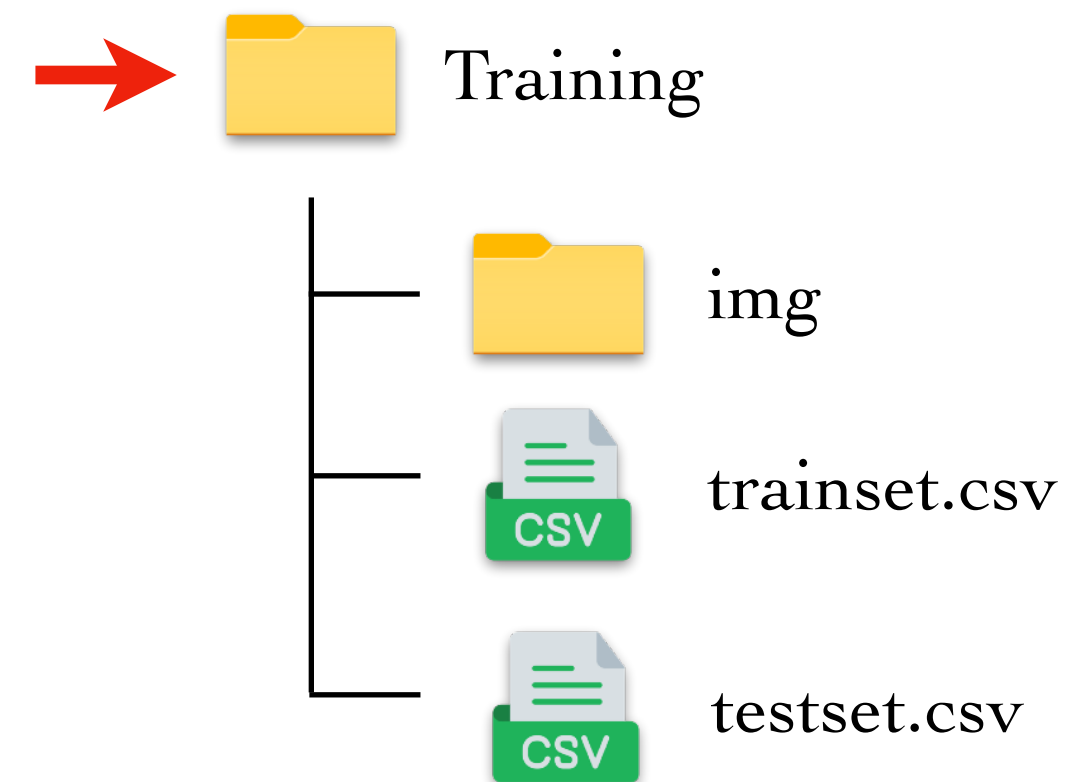
Tree



File Operations

Creating a directory (1/2)

Tree



Shell

```
Training/$ mkdir models
```

Output

```
Training/$
```

File Operations

Creating a file (2/2)

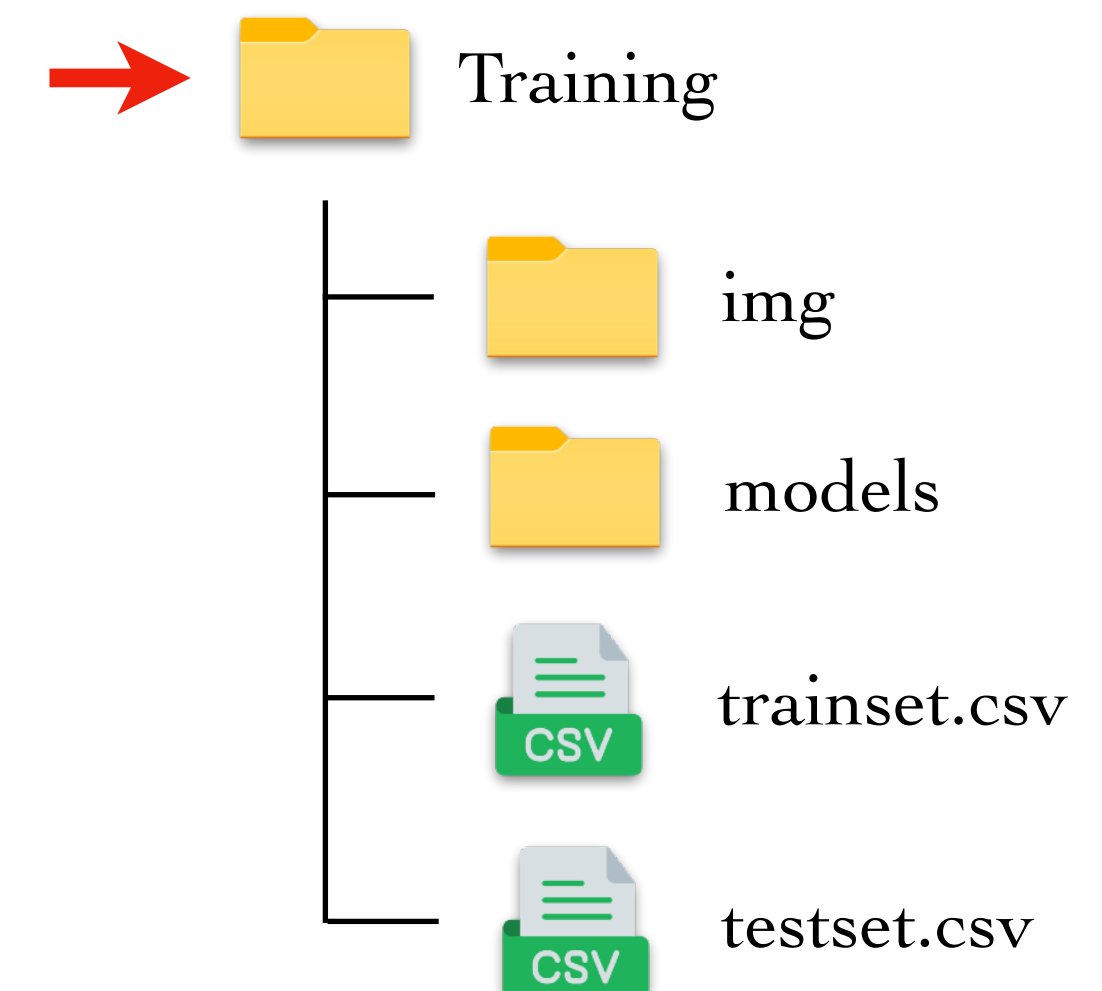
Shell

```
Training/$ mkdir models
```

Output

```
Training/$
```

Tree



File Operations

Copying a file/directory (1/2)

Copying a file

```
$ cp <file-path> <destination>
```

<destination>

<destination-file> : new name

<destination-directory> : same name

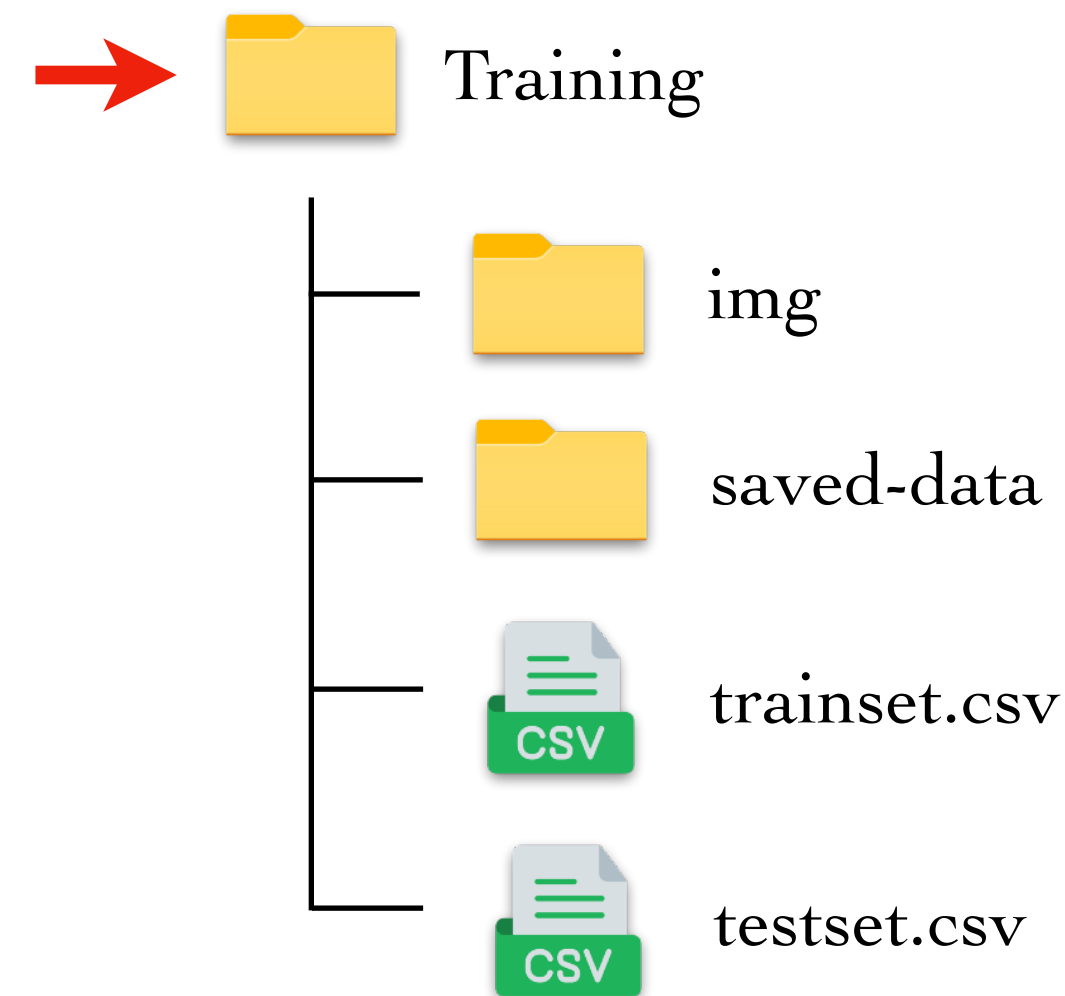
Copying a directory

```
$ cp -r <directory-path> <destination-directory>
```

File Operations

Copying a file/directory (2/2)

Tree



Copying a file

```
Training/$ cp trainset.csv trainset_copy.csv
```

```
Training/$ cp trainset.csv saved-data/
```

Copying a directory

```
Training/$ cp -r img/ img-copy/
```

File Operations

Moving a file/directory

Moving a file to another directory

```
$ mv <file-path> <destination-directory>
```

Moving a directory to another directory

```
$ mv <directory-path> <destination-directory>
```

File Operations

Renaming a file/directory

Renaming a file

```
$ mv <file-name> <new-file-name>
```

Renaming a directory

```
$ mv <directory-name> <new-directory-name>
```

File Operations

Removing a file/directory

Removing a file

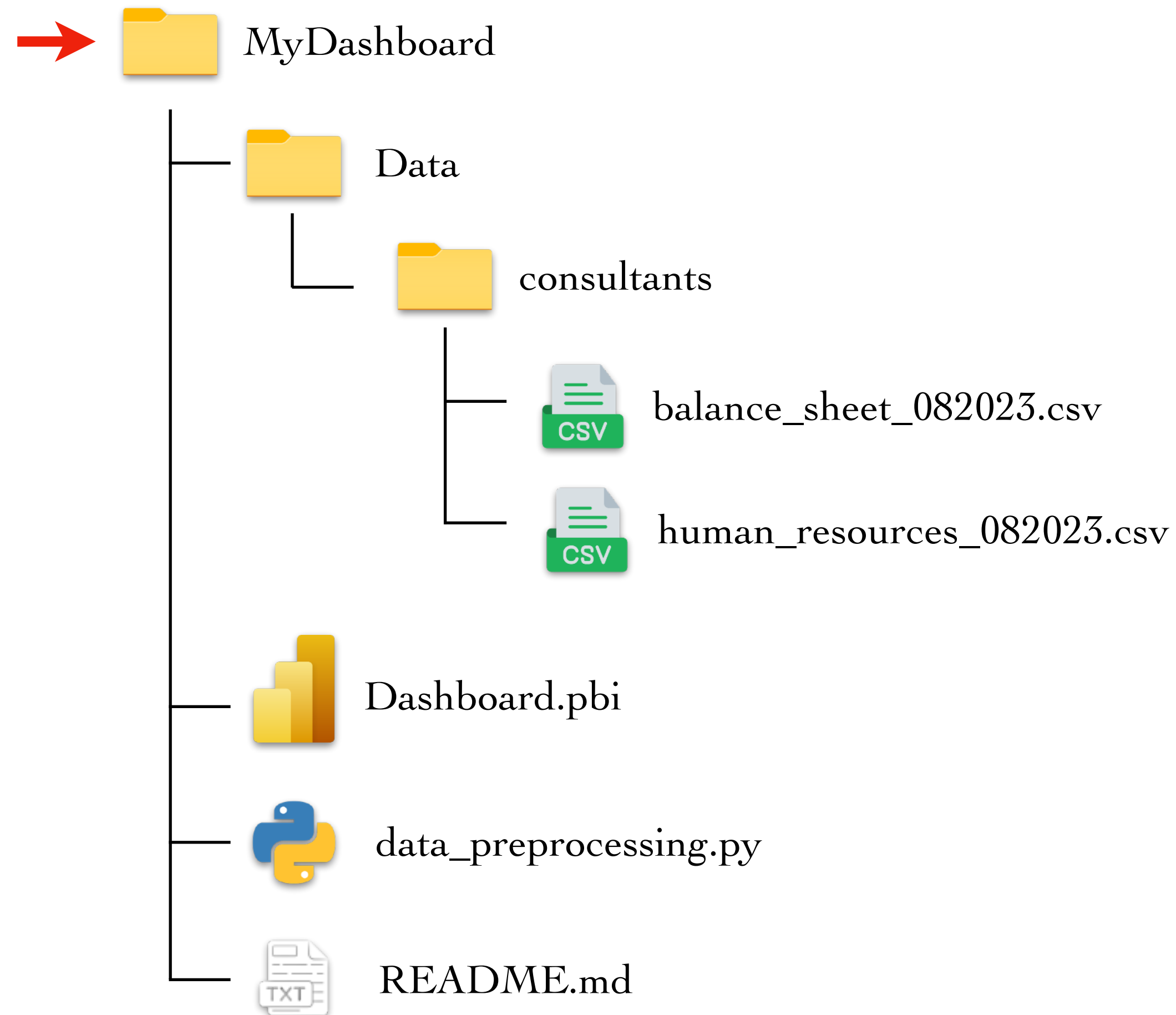
```
$ rm <file-path>
```

Removing a directory

```
$ rm -r <directory-path>
```

File Operations

Question 1



How to remove all  files?

A

`rm files.csv`

B

`rm Data/consultant/*.csv`

C

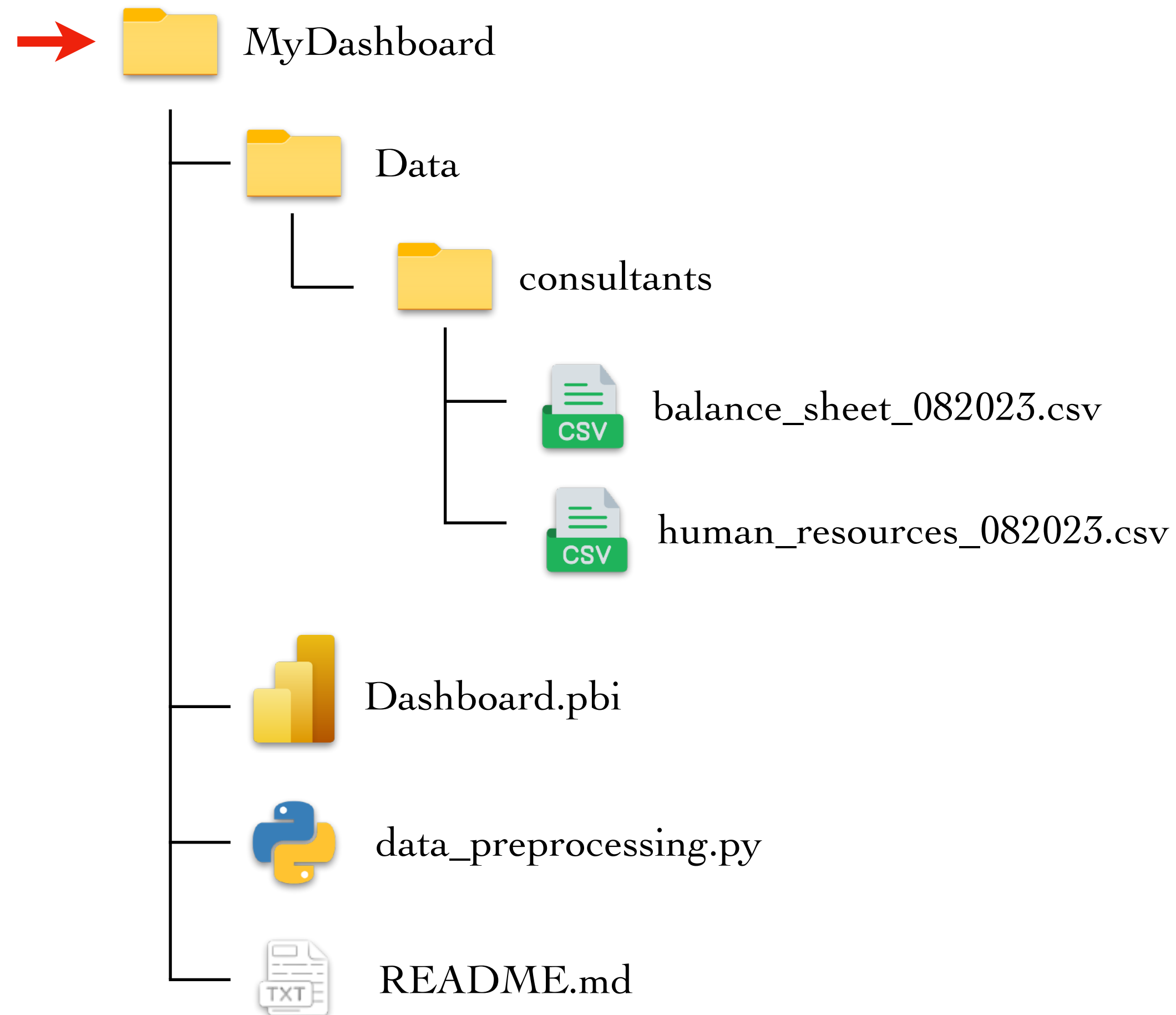
`rm -r Data/consultant/*.csv`

D

`rm *.csv`

File Operations

Question 1



How to remove all  files?

A

`rm files.csv`

B

`rm Data/consultant/*.csv`

C

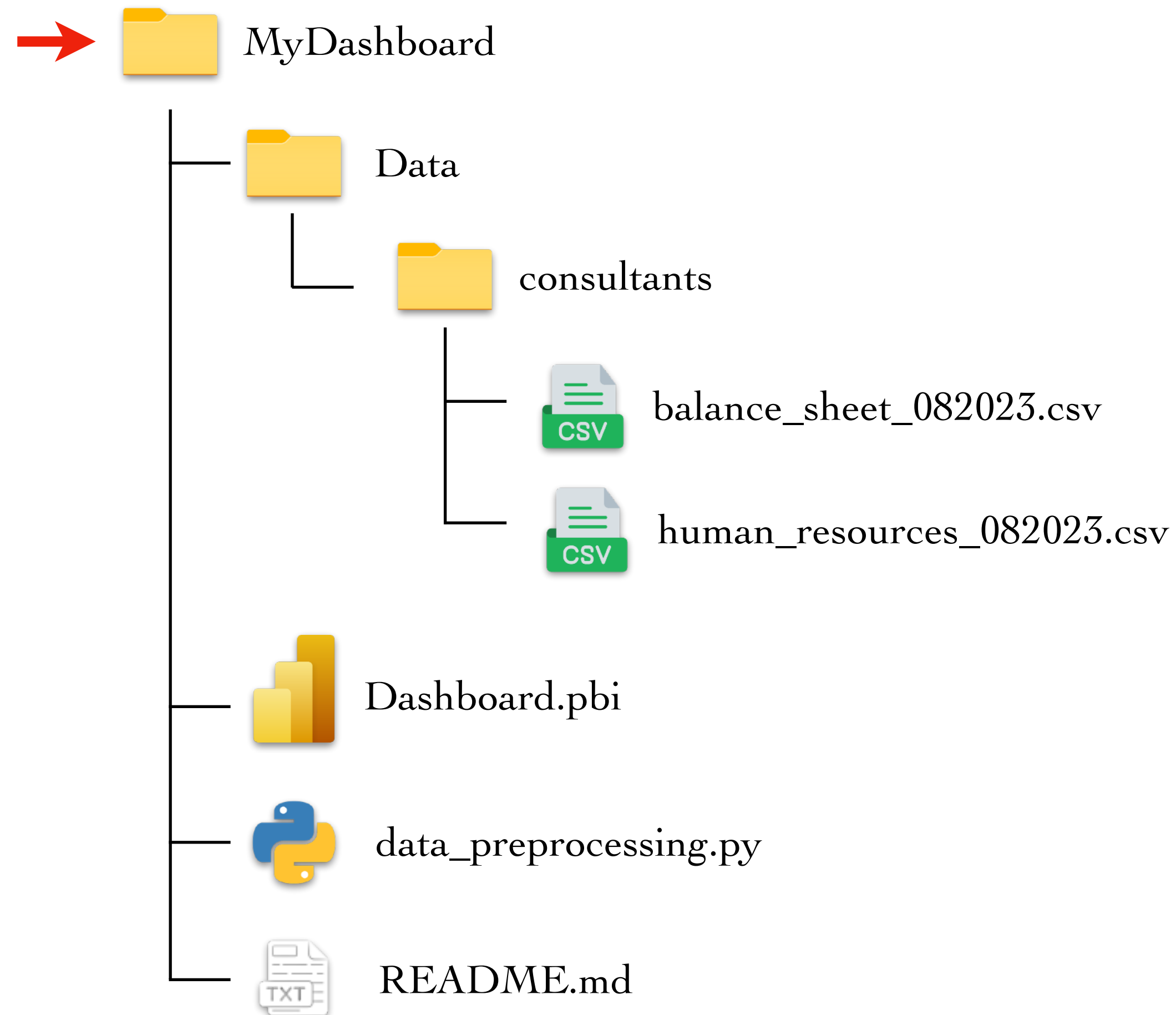
`rm -r Data/consultant/*.csv`



D

`rm *.csv`

File Operations

Question 2



Create  img as a subfolder of  Data ?

A

`mk Data/img`

B

`mk img`

C

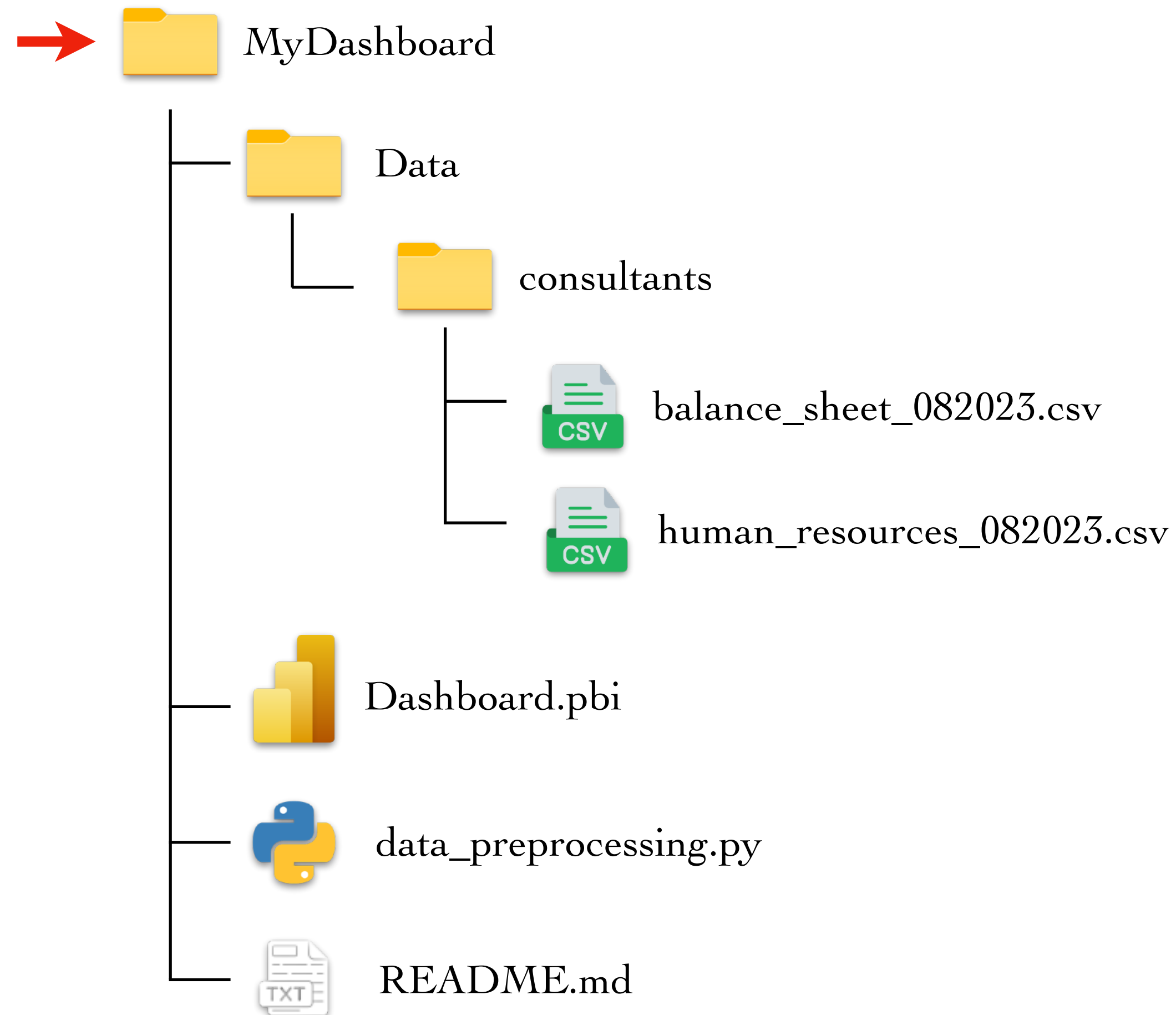
`mkdr Data/img`



D

`mkdir Data/img`

File Operations

Question 2



Create  img as a subfolder of  Data ?

A

`mk Data/img`

B

`mk img`

C

`mkdr Data/img`

D

`mkdir Data/img`

Text Files

Display

Shell

```
$ cat <file-path>
```

Text Files

Write and Redirect

Write and Redirect (Create/Erase and Add)

```
$ cat file1.txt > file2.txt
```

Write and Redirect (Create or Append)

```
$ cat file1.txt >> file2.txt
```

Text Files

Searching

General command

```
$ grep "keyword" <file-path>
```


Text Files

Searching Examples

Case-Insensitive Search

```
$ grep -i "apple" file.txt
```

Whole words only

```
$ grep -w "apple" file.txt
```

Multiple files

```
$ grep "apple" *.txt
```

Recursively in directories

```
$ grep -r "apple" *.txt
```

Text Files

Sort & Uniq

Sorting

```
$ sort <file-path>
```

Keep unique (distinct) adjacent lines

```
$ uniq "keyword" <file-path>
```