Variables That Have Special Meaning to the C Shell

- The C shell has some user-controlled parameters (i.e., variables that can be set by the user).

1 User-defined Shell Variables with Special Meaning

Most of these will be discussed later (or not at all):

- `cdpath`: defines a search path for subdirectories.
- `histchars`: defines characters that are used to perform **history** operations.
- `history`: defines the size of the history file of previous commands.
- `ignoreeof`: controls the function of entering `CTRL—d`.
- `mail`: defines directory name(s) that must be checked to determine if a new mail message has arrived. Also is used to specify the number of seconds between mail checks.
- `noclobber`: defines whether the system allows file overwriting as the default.
- `noglob`: defines whether the system expands lists of filenames via the use of metacharacters.
- `nonomatch`: defines whether '`nomatch`' on a globbing operation constitutes an error.
- `notify`: defines whether the statis of a (background) job is immediately reported.
- `path`: defines a search path for executables.
  - This is set in your `.login` file.
- `prompt`: defines the prompt that appears when the C shell is waiting for a command.

```
%set prompt = "Say what? "
Say what? set prompt = "$prompt Say what?"
Say what?  Say what?
```

- `time`: can be used to automatically time every command.

2 Shell Variables That Are Set by the C Shell

- `argv`: an array of names (the command, followd by its arguments).
- `cwd`: contains the current working directory.

```
% set prompt = "$cwd >"
/fs/hydra2/home/cappello >set prompt = %
```

- `echo`: a switch that echoes every command line to the terminal.
- `home`: contains the name of the directory that is a user's home directory.

```
% echo $home
/fs/hydra2/home/cappello
```

- `shell`: contains the name of the file that the user is executing under.

```
% echo $shell
/bin/csh
```

- `status`: contains the exit status from the last command and is maintained by the C shell itself.

  It can be tested to determine the success of the previous command.

```
% echo $status
0
```

- `user`: contains the name of the user who has started the current user session either by logging in or by issuing the `su` command.

```
% echo $user
cappello
```

- verbose: set when the "-v" command line argument is used to invoke the C shell.

- When set, every command is displayed on the terminal after history substitution and before execution.

- `$$`: contains the process number of the invoking shell.

```
% echo $$
13080
```

3 Environment Variables That Have Special Meaning

- `HOME`: same as `home`.
- `PATH`: same as `path`.
- `USER`: same as `user`.