### Difficult to find gmx select documentation

**08/13/2015 12:21 PM - Viveca Lindahl**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Closed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignee</td>
<td>Viveca Lindahl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>selections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target version</td>
<td>5.1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty</td>
<td>uncategorized</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description**

I find it difficult to find the gmx select syntax. I end up googling it and wind up here: [http://www.gromacs.org/Documentation/Gromacs_Utilities/g_select](http://www.gromacs.org/Documentation/Gromacs_Utilities/g_select) where I read that

\[
g_{\text{select}} \text{-select 'help all'}
\]

should give me the docs. On my (master-based) gmx doing

\[
g_{\text{mx}} \text{-select 'help all'}
\]

gives a syntax error.

To get to the docs I need a tpr and do 'gmx select -s topol.tpr' and then 'help' and then e.g. 'help syntax'. It would be much better if 1) I get info about how to reach the docs directly from 'gmx select -h' and 2) if I can go through the docs without providing any input.

**Associated revisions**

**Revision b8019378 - 08/13/2015 02:01 PM - Mark Abraham**

Make it easier to find selection help

Fixes #1805

Change-Id: le09bbaa75601f6ba3e8e514f78e3bae34e732786

**Revision c99cdd50 - 08/13/2015 05:17 PM - Mark Abraham**

Make it easier to find selection help

Now the command-line reference part of the user guide has a TOC entry that has the magic work "selection" in it.

Fixes #1805

Change-Id: lb99840ab1f3fd72a52f28ffa1e06ee1242fa4310

**History**

#1 - 08/13/2015 01:51 PM - Justin Lemkul

The "problem" (if it can be called that) is that the selection mechanism is gradually being introduced into multiple tools; the help info is no longer unique to gmx select, which in old versions as g_select, was the only tool that used the selection syntax. Now, others (e.g. gmx distance) use it, too. So what you want is

\[
g_{\text{mx}} \text{ help selections}
\]

which can then be used to find syntax, examples, etc. Much of the information on the wiki is getting outdated, and I haven't had time to keep up with that as I once did, but of course others can add to it with new information that they learn :)

#2 - 08/13/2015 01:54 PM - Mark Abraham

gmx help selections is the new magic thing. Let me see if I can make this easier in both 5.0 and 5.1 branches

#3 - 08/13/2015 01:59 PM - Gerrit Code Review Bot

Gerrit received a related patchset '1' for Issue #1805.
Uploader: Mark Abraham ([mark.j.abraham@gmail.com](mailto:mark.j.abraham@gmail.com))
#4 - 08/13/2015 02:10 PM - Gerrit Code Review Bot
Gerrit received a related patchset ‘1’ for Issue #1805.
Uploader: Mark Abraham (mark.j.abraham@gmail.com)
Change-Id: Ib99840ab1f3f72a52f28ffa1e06ee1242fa4310
Gerrit URL: https://gerrit.gromacs.org/4991

#5 - 08/13/2015 02:10 PM - Teemu Murtola
Note that in 5.1, you can just read all the information that is available in the selection help directly from the user guide.

#6 - 08/13/2015 04:21 PM - Mark Abraham
Teemu Murtola wrote:

Note that in 5.1, you can just read all the information that is available in the selection help directly from the user guide.

Indeed, although 4991 makes it easier to find it in the TOC

#7 - 08/13/2015 05:31 PM - Mark Abraham
- Status changed from New to Resolved
- % Done changed from 0 to 100

Applied in changeset b80193784dd4ac929f18c30031a91141e650baa9.

#8 - 01/12/2016 08:29 PM - Teemu Murtola
- Status changed from Resolved to Closed
- Target version set to 5.1.2