

**ARx\_Operator.ag**

**COLLABORATORS**

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# Chapter 1

## ARx\_Operator.ag

### 1.1 ARexxGuide | Operators

AN AMIGAGUIDE® TO ARexx  
by Robin Evans

Edition: 1.0b

Using operators in expressions           -- Basic Elements section.

ARexx operators:

Concatenation

Arithmetic

Table of arithmetic operators

Comparison

Table of comparison operators

Logical

Table of logical operators

About operator precedence

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### 1.2 ARexxGuide | Operators (1 of 4) | CONCATENATION

A concatenation operator combines a pair of strings into one string. The operators take three forms in ARexx: a blank space between strings, abuttal of two strings, or the characters { || } between strings.

The easiest way to combine strings is to place them next to each other on the same line like this:

```
/**/  
Str = 'This is one string' 'and another'  
say Str           >>> This is one string and another
```

It may not look like it, but there's an operator at work here. The blank space between the two strings is one of three forms of the concatenation

---

operator. Only one blank is considered an operator. Others will be skipped, so the same value results from both of the following:

```
say 'single'      'blank'      >>> single blank
say 'single' 'blank'      >>> single blank
```

Strings or expressions that produce strings may be abutted against one another to combine the two strings:

```
/**/
Str1 = 'No'
say Str1'space'      >>> Nospace
```

Abuttal of string values is an implied operator telling ARexx to combine the two strings without an intervening blank.

Implied abuttal will not always work. For instance, two variable symbols cannot be combined that way without creating a new symbol. ARexx provides the explicit concatenation operator { || } for those circumstances. When placed between two string values with any number of blanks dividing the operator and the strings, the operator causes the strings to be combined without intervening blanks.

```
/**/
Str1 = 'No'
Str2 = 'space'
SAY Str1 || Str2      >>> Nospace
```

A single '|' is not a concatenation operator. It is, rather, the logical operator representing OR in an expression.

Next: ARITHMETIC | Prev: Operators | Contents: Operators

### 1.3 ARexxGuide | Operators (2 of 4) | ARITHMETIC

Any two expressions that yield a number can be combined using the dyadic arithmetic operators that take this form:

```
<num expr> <operator> <num expr>
```

ARexx also recognizes two prefix operators that affect only the number to the right. The prefix operators take this form:

```
<operator><num expr>
```

<num expr> can be a constant, variable, or the result of a function or of another expression.

#### TABLE OF ARITHMETIC Operators

With both dyadic and prefix operators, blanks between the operator token and <num expr> are allowed and will be removed by ARexx. Leading or trailing blanks in the number will also be removed as part of the conversion. The result of the expression is formatted according to the current settings of NUMERIC DIGITS.

Use of prefix operators may result in loss of precision in the number being converted since the result of the expression if the numeric setting is shorter than the number of digits in the number. This characteristic may be used, however, instead of the TRUNC() function to round numbers to a desired size. This fragment demonstrates the difference:

```
bn = 1.239856790097
say digits()      >>> 9          /* current NUMERIC setting */
say bn           >>> 1.239856790097
say +bn          >>> 1.23985679  /* formatted to 9 digits */
say trunc(bn, 2) >>> 1.23       /* not rounded */
numeric digits 3 >>>           /* change setting */
say +bn          >>> 1.24       /* fraction is rounded */
```

Next: COMPARISON | Prev: Concatenation | Contents: Operators

## 1.4 ARexxGuide | Operators | Arithmetic (1 of 1) | TABLE

Operator	Operation	Priority	Type
+	Addition	5	Dyadic
-	Subtraction	5	Dyadic
*	Multiplication	6	Dyadic
/	Division	6	Dyadic
%	Integer division. (Divide number on the left by number on the right and return the integer part of the result)	6	Dyadic
//	Remainder (Divide numbers -- left by right -- and return the remainder, which may be negative)	6	Dyadic
**	Exponentiation. (Raise the number on the left to the whole number power on the right)	7	Dyadic
- <num>	Negation. (Same as 0 - <num>)	8	Prefix
+ <num>	Conversion. (Same as 0 + <num>)	8	Prefix

Examples:

```
Sev = 7
say 10 + Sev      >>> 17
say 10 - Sev      >>> 3
say 10 * Sev      >>> 70
say 10 / Sev      >>> 1.42857143
say 10 % Sev      >>> 1
say 10 // Sev     >>> 3
say 10 ** Sev     >>> 10000000
say +Sev          >>> 7
say -Sev          >>> -7
```

Next, Prev & Contents: Arithmetic

## 1.5 ARexxGuide | Operators (3 of 4) | COMPARISON

The result of an expression using comparison operators is one of two values: either 0 for FALSE or 1 for TRUE. Each of the operators compares the value to the right of the operator with the value to the left. A comparison of alphabetic values is case-sensitive.

Comparison expressions take this form:

```
<expr> <operator> <expr>
```

<expr> can be any expression including a variable or number, or the result from another expression or a function.

### TABLE OF COMPARISON OPERATORS

There are two classes of comparison operators: normal and strict. The normal comparison operators ignore leading and trailing spaces in <value> and, when performing numeric comparisons, ignore any leading 0's in a number. The two strict operators, {==} and {~==} compare <expr> character-for-character -- spaces and 0's included -- and treat all numbers as character strings.

When using the normal operators, ARexx will perform a numeric comparison if the value on both sides of the operator is numeric. In other words, { 9<19 } will evaluate to 1 (TRUE). If either value is non-numeric, however, both will be treated as character strings.

Comparison expressions are often used as the <conditional> in IF , WHEN , or DO instructions, but they may also be used as a subexpression in a compound operation:

```
a = (a<b) * 5
```

[A] will be given a value of either 5 or 0 depending on the outcome of the comparative expression in parentheses.

The LOGICAL operators may be used to produce a Boolean result from two or more comparative expressions.

Interactive example

Next: LOGICAL | Prev: ARITHMETIC | Contents: Operators

## 1.6 ARexxGuide | Operators | Comparison (1 of 1) | TABLE

Operator	Operation (what it tests for)	Priority	Class
=	is equal	3	Normal
==	is exactly equal	3	Strict
~=	is not equal	3	Normal
~==	is exactly not equal	3	Strict
>	is greater than	3	Normal
>=	is greater than or equal to	3	Normal
~<	is greater than or equal to	3	Normal

<	is less than	3	Normal
<=	is less than or equal to	3	Normal
~>	is less than or equal to	3	Normal

Samples:

Expression	Result	Notes
'about' < 'around'	TRUE	Alphabetic comparison
30 > 7	TRUE	Numeric comparison
'30' > '7'	TRUE	Numeric comparison performed even when the number is entered as a string.
'Thirty' > 'Seven'	TRUE	'T' has a higher ASCII value than 'S'
30 > 'Seven'	FALSE	Alphabetic comparison performed. Digits have a lower value in ASCII than all alpha characters.
'foo' = 'foo '	TRUE	blanks are ignored
' foo ' = 'foo'	TRUE	both leading and trailing blanks are ignored
'foo' == 'foo '	FALSE	'==' causes blanks to be significant

Next, Prev & Contents: Logical

## 1.7 ARexxGuide | Operators (4 of 4) | LOGICAL

Any two valid expressions that yield a Boolean value (either 1 or 0) can be combined using the dyadic logical operators that take this form:

```
<Bool expr> <operator> <Bool expr>
```

ARexx also recognizes a prefix negation operator that has effect only on the expression to the right. The prefix operator takes this form:

```
<operator><Bool expr>
```

<Bool expr> may any expression -- a constant , string , variable , or the result of a function or of another operation.

TABLE OF LOGICAL OPERATORS

Next: Operators | Prev: Comparison | Contents: Operators

## 1.8 ARexxGuide | Operators | Logical (1 of 1) | TABLE

Operator	Operation	Priority	Type
~	NOT -- negation. TRUE value becomes FALSE and visa-versa	8	Prefix
&	AND -- TRUE only if both terms are TRUE	2	Dyadic

	OR -- TRUE if either of the terms is TRUE	1	Dyadic
&&	Exclusive OR		
^	Exclusive OR -- TRUE if one but not both of the terms is TRUE.	1	Dyadic

Next, Prev & Contents: Logical

## 1.9 ARexxGuide | Operators | Note (1 of 2) | PRIORITY

ARexx normally evaluates a clause from left to right. That could cause problems in operations, however, because the order in which terms are presented in an operation would have a significant effect on the result: { 4 + 3 \* 5 } would result in 35 if the operations were performed in strict left-to-right order while { 5 \* 3 + 4 } would result in 19.

To prevent such differences in the results two similar operations, ARexx assigns to each operator a priority. Instead of evaluating all terms in an operation in the usual left to right order, the interpreter performs the operations with a higher priority before evaluating those with a lower priority.

The table below lists the relative priority of the various operators:

Operation	Represented by	Priority
Prefix	+ - ~	8
Exponentiation	**	7
Multiplication/Division	* / //	6
Addition/Subtraction	+ -	5
Concatenation	<blank> <abuttal>	4
Comparison	= == < > >= <= ~> ~< ~=	3
And	&	2
Or/Exclusive or	&& ^	1

Multiplication operations have a priority of 6 while addition has a priority of 5, which means that the both of the alternative forms of writing { 4 + 3 \* 5 } will result in 19 because the multiplication operation will be performed before the addition operation.

Next: Parentheses & priority | Prev: Operators | Contents: Operators

## 1.10 ARexxGuide | Operators | Note (2 of 2) | PARENTHESES

Using parentheses to change priority

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Parentheses may be used in any expression to control the order in which the expression is evaluated.

Parentheses force evaluation of the enclosed expression before other operations are performed. This grouping will sometimes have a significant effect on the result of the expression:

