

Introduction to Unix Shell Scripting

Day 2 - Building Blocks

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Now that we understand shell operation, we can start discussing the main building blocks of a script.

- ▶ Parameters
 - ▶ Operations
- ▶ Control Statements
 - ▶ Conditionals
 - ▶ Loops
- ▶ Input and Output

Parameters I – setting and using simple parameters

Parameters

- ▶ A *parameter* (or *variable*) is just a name for a single value or a collection of values (known as an *array*).
- ▶ Scripts *store* values in variables for later use (often a transformation or decision).
- ▶ There are multiple ways of setting parameters, and many more ways of retrieving their values, including handy operations.
- ▶ We'll see about single-value parameters¹ now; arrays will be discussed later.

¹I'll just call them “simple” parameters.

Setting: the `=` operator

Assigns a value to a variable:

```
answer=42                # no need to declare (!= C...)
human='Homo sapiens'     # quotes!
date=$(date); shell_msg="I use $SHELL"
species=$human           # no word splitting
answer="nuts!"           # can reassign freely
```

- ▶ There is **no whitespace** around the equals sign!
- ▶ Variable names (*identifiers*) contain **letters, digits, or underscores**; they cannot not start with a digit.
- ▶ Expansions happen, but **word splitting is disabled**².

²Except for arrays - see below

Getting: `${}`

Parameter expansion - retrieves the value of a variable.

```
place=Reykjavík # set value
echo ${place} # get value: ${...}
echo $place # short form
```

Unset and Null

- ▶ A *null* variable has the **empty string** (`''`) for a value.
- ▶ An *unset* variable **has no value** – it does not exist (and it's usually a mistake to refer to its value³).
- ▶ A variable can be deleted with `unset`.

```
place=Bogotá  
place=''      # empty  
place=        # same as place=''  
unset place  # (NOT $place!) - deleted
```

³Think of `NULL`, `null`, `nil`, `None`, or `Nothing` in your favorite language.

Beware of the short form!

- ▶ Say we have files like `<spc>_18S.dna`, etc. for several species;
- ▶ Now we want to remove the files for some species, stored in variable `$spc`.

```
spc=rat; rm $spc_18S.* # WRONG!  
spc=rat; rm $spc_18S*  # WORSE!! DON'T DO THIS!  
spc=rat; rm ${spc}_18S* # correct
```

Can you guess what the rule is?

`set -u` guards against unset variables⁴.

⁴See Appendix I (day 2 slides).

Type

By default, Bash treats simple values as **strings**⁵. For Bash to treat a value as a number, it must usually be told to do so:

```
a=20; b=30; echo $a+$b    # surprise!  
a=20; b=30; echo $((a+b)) # arithmetic  
# malformed number -> 0  
bond=oo7; echo $((bond))
```

⁵IOW, Bash is a (very) weakly-typed language.

String Operations I

```
genus=Harpagofututor
${#genus}      # length -> 14
${genus:7}     # substring from 7 (0-based)
${genus:0:7}   # substring of length 7 from 0
${genus: -5:4} # SPACE is required (:-)
a=7; b=14
${genus:a:b}   # arithmetic evaluation
```

String Operations II

```
prog=BLASTN
${prog/N/P}      # substitute 1st match
DNA=cgatgtattcag
RNA=${DNA//t/u}  # idem, all matches (t->u)
img=figure1.jpeg
${img%jp*g}svg   # delete pattern at end
ext=.png
${img/.jp?g/$ext} # expansion happens
```

Many more variants (`man bash`).

Arithmetic Expansion: `$(())`

Shell arithmetic: treats values as *integers*⁶ rather than strings:

1. Parameters are expanded (`$` not needed)
2. The resulting expression is evaluated numerically (operators on next slide)

```
a=2; b=5
echo $((a * b))
echo $((a < b)) # boolean - 1: true, 0: false
```

⁶As far as possible

Table 1: Main Arithmetic Operators, by decreasing precedence - ()
 override.

operator	function
!	logical negation
**	exponentiation
* , / , %	multiplication, division, remainder
+ , -	addition, subtraction
< , > , <= , >=	comparison
== , !=	logical equality and inequality
&&	logical AND
 	logical OR
= , += , *= , ...	assignment

Simple Arithmetic Tests: `(())`⁸

- ▶ This is a *command*. It succeeds if the arithmetic expression between `((` and `)` result is **not** zero.
- ▶ Combined with `&&` and/or `||`, provides *simple*⁷ decision making.

```
((N < 10)) && echo "sample too small"
((N < 10)) && echo "too small" || echo "large enough"
# ==, !=, <= ...
```

⁷There are other, more flexible forms.

⁸Not the same as `$(())` (arithmetic expansion)

Why can 0 signal both success and failure?

Historical aside

- ▶ Unix: (many) more ways to fail than to succeed \rightarrow 0 for success, > 0 for various kinds of errors.
- ▶ Early shells: crude Boolean and arithmetic expressions (if at all).
- ▶ C language: Boolean algebra with 0 for false and nonzero for true.

\Rightarrow When (or “if”) arithmetic and Boolean expressions were added to shells, they were strongly influenced by C.^a

^aAs was the `for ((; ;))` loop.

Simple Tests involving String Values: `[[]]`

Like `(())`, but with strings.

- ▶ `[[]]` is a command, and succeeds IFF the *conditional expression* within it evaluates to true.
- ▶ It can also⁹ be combined with `&&`, `||`, etc.

```
[[ $s ]] # $s is non-empty  
[[ $s = $t ]] # $s is the same (string) as $t
```

- ▶ Spaces matter
- ▶ Word splitting is **disabled** between `[[]]`, so `"$var"` can be simplified to `$var`

⁹Like any command, in fact

More String Comparison

`<`, `>`, etc. also available, but with some differences:

```
[[ Amanda > Pam ]] # Lexical -> false
[[ 2+2 == 4 ]]    # false!
[[ 10 < 2 ]]      # true!
```

`[[...]]` *can* compare numbers¹⁰

¹⁰Though perhaps it shouldn't be used for that.

File Properties

They take the form `-c filename`, where the character `c` denotes a file property. For example, to check if a file exists, use `-e`:

```
[[ -e file.txt ]] && echo "exists!"  
# Make a dir unless it exists  
[[ -d mydir ]] || mkdir mydir
```

Many properties can be tested in this way (see next slide).

Other file property test operators

operator	true if
----------	---------

<code>-f</code>	file exists and is a regular file (<i>e.g.</i> , not a dir)
-----------------	--

<code>-r</code>	file is readable
-----------------	------------------

<code>-w</code>	file is writable
-----------------	------------------

<code>-x</code>	file is executable
-----------------	--------------------

<code>-s</code>	file exists and has a size greater than 0
-----------------	---

There are also a few file *comparison* operators, such as

`f1 -nt f2` which is true iff `f1` is newer than `f2`.

Obviously, they expect *two* arguments.

Pattern Matching

If unquoted, the right-hand argument of a `==` or `!=` is treated as a pattern (“glob”):

```
[[ abc == ?bc ]]      # true
[[ abc == "?bc" ]]    # false (quotes)
gene=lacZ; [[ $gene == lac? ]]
```

Note that the glob pattern isn't matched against files, but against the **left-hand argument**.

It is also possible to match against regular expressions (see supplementary slides).

Expansion Happens

The above examples used mostly literals for simplicity's sake, but (most) expansions are entirely possible in test commands:

```
[[ -x $HOME ]] # better not be false
[[ $SHELL == /usr/bin/bash ]]
[[ /usr/bin/echo == $(which echo) ]]
a=1; b=1; [[ $a -eq $b ]]
(($ (ls | wc -l) > 10)) && echo 'more than ten files'
```

Logical Operations

The expressions can be connected with the logical operators `(...)`, `!`, `&&`, and `||` (decreasing order of precedence).¹¹

```
a=Ann; b=Ben; [[ $a == $a && ! ($b == $b) ]]  
# Also works with (( ))  
a=2; b=3; ((a != b || a == b))
```

¹¹The *logical* operators `&&`, `||` and `!` are **not the same** as the *control* operators `&&`, `||` and `!`.

Practice

→ Exercise 2.1

I/O - Getting data into and out of our script

Input

There are many ways of getting data into our script, including:

- ▶ Reusing **standard input**
- ▶ **Positional parameters**
- ▶ The `read` and `mapfile` functions
- ▶ Command substitution: `$(...)`
- ▶ Environment variables

Standard Input (`stdin`)

Commands called by a script inherit its standard input:

```
#!/bin/bash
# reuse_stdin.sh
grep Spo0
# at this point, stdin is used up!
```

```
./reuse_stdin.sh < ../data/Spo0A.msa
```

- ▶ `grep`'s stdin is the same as `reuse_stdin.sh`'s, namely `../data/Spo0A.msa`.

Practice

→ **Exercise 2.2** - Reusing standard input.

Arguments and Positional Parameters

A command's arguments are accessed through special parameters called *positional parameters*: `$1`, `$2`, etc., which hold the first, second, etc. arguments, respectively.

```
./show_args.sh -f -y optarg arg1 arg{2..4}
```

- ▶ `$0` holds the name of the script (or function).
- ▶ `$@` holds all argument values passed to the script (or function).
- ▶ `$#` holds the count of the number of argument values passed to the script (or function).

We can now change our script to:

```
#!/bin/bash  
# pos_arg.sh  
grep Spo0A "$1"
```

```
./pos_arg.sh ../data/Spo0A.msa
```

Sadly, the script now longer works with the `<` redirection, because then there is no `$1` (do `set -u` to check).¹²

¹²But there is a way to make a script work in both ways.

Reading by lines - `read`

Instead of reading whole files, as we did up to now...

... the `read` builtin¹³ takes one or more identifiers, reads one line, word-splits it, and sets the corresponding identifiers:

```
read firstname lastname  
echo "Hi, $firstname $lastname!"
```

¹³A builtin command works like a program but is part of the shell

Practice

→ **Exercise 2.3** - Getting user input from arguments.

Environment Variables: `export`

```
#!/bin/bash

printf "NOT_EXPORTED: %s\n" "$NOT_EXPORTED"
printf "    EXPORTED: %s\n" "$EXPORTED"
```

Try the following:

```
unset EXPORTED NOT_EXPORTED
NOT_EXPORTED='not exported'
export EXPORTED=exported      # inherited
./use_env.sh
```

Use case: HPC clusters (can't pass parameters).

Output

- ▶ `echo`: just outputs its arguments, separated by spaces. By default, doesn't handle `\`-escapes¹⁴. Terminates lines with a `\n` unless told not to (`-n`).
- ▶ `printf`: formatted printing (see below); `\t` and `\n` work as expected.
- ▶ Any programs called will use our script's `stdout` and `stderr`.

¹⁴Compare `echo 'a\tb'` and `echo -e 'a\tb'`.

printf¹⁵ - formatted printing

- ▶ Takes a *format string* and zero or more further arguments.
- ▶ *Placeholders* in the format string are replaced by the corresponding arguments (in order).
- ▶ *Formats* allow control over length, decimal places, padding, etc.

¹⁵Inherited from the C language, and copied by countless others.

printf - Examples

```
pi=3.1415926535; seq=CAGCACACCG;  
printf "The value of Pi is about %.2f\n" "$pi"  
printf "First 5 residues of seq: %.5s\n" "$seq"  
printf "%02d\n" {1..10} # handy for sorting
```

- ▶ `%f` treats the argument as a floating-point value.
- ▶ `%s` treats the argument as a string.
- ▶ `%d` treats the argument as an integer.

→ use `echo` for simple tasks, `printf` for anything else.

Control Structures

Only the simplest scripts run all their code exactly once. Most execute at least *some* instructions more than once, or not at all.

For this, we use *control structures*:

- ▶ Loops (repetition) - shortly
- ▶ Conditionals (choice) - later
- ▶ Groups (sequential flow) - not covered

They start and stop with a specific **keyword** (`if...fi`, `{...}`, `while...done`, etc.)

Test Commands

As we will see shortly, many conditionals and loops involve *test commands*. They are typically one of the following (all already known!):

- ▶ a *simple command* - the test succeeds iff the command succeeds (returns 0);
- ▶ a *conditional expression* between `[[` and `]]`
- ▶ an *arithmetic expression* between `((` and `))`

Loops

Loops are **iterative** control structures: they **repeat** a sequence of commands (called the *body*), typically with minor modifications.

They operate either:

- ▶ For a **fixed** number of iterations (`for ... in`). No test command is involved in this form.
- ▶ Until some **condition** is met (`while` , `until` , `for ((...))`). This condition is expressed as a test command.

for loop - 1st form

```
for <name> in <words> ; do  
  <commands> # <- body  
done
```

Expands `<words>`, and executes `<commands>`, binding `<name>` to each of the resulting values in turn.

Sometimes written with more (or fewer) `;` instead of newlines.

The second form of the `for` loop allows e.g. a dummy variable – see supplementary slides.

for loop - Example 1

for loops are frequently used with file globs. The following copies a set of *.fasta files to *.fas:

```
for file in *.fasta ; do
    cp $file ${file/.fasta/.fas}
done
```

while loop

In `while` loops, the body is executed **as long as** `<test>` **succeeds**.

```
while <test> ; do  
  <commands> # body  
done
```

(The similar `until` loop works in the same way, except that it loops **until** the test succeeds (see Supplementary slides)).

Example: the Collatz conjecture

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash

declare -i n=$1
while ((n > 1)); do
    printf "%d\n" "$n"
    if ((0 == n % 2)); then
        ((n /= 2))
    else
        ((n = 3*n + 1))
    fi
done
```

Skipping iterations - the `continue` keyword

All loops (`for`, `while`, and `until`) support the use of the `continue` keyword, that makes execution of code **skip the remainder of the current loop**.

Example: print all multiples of 7 between 0 and 100.

```
for x in {0..100}; do
  ((x % 7 != 0)) && continue
  echo $x
done
```

Breaking out of Loops - the `break` keyword

`break` allows an early exit from a loop:

```
# Print the first line that contains some string.
while read line; do
    if [[ $line == *GAATTC* ]]; then
        printf "%s\n" "$line"
        break
    fi
done
```

To break out of n nested loops, use `break n`.

Practice

→ **Exercise 2.4** - a simple `for` loop.

Conditionals

Conditionals are *branching* control structures. They enable the script to **choose what to do** between two or more possibilities.

The main conditional constructs are:

- ▶ `if` - yes-or-no decisions (possibly nested), based on a *test command*
- ▶ `case` - multi-way decision, based on *pattern matching*

if

The basic idea:

```
if <test-command> ; then
    <statements> # iff test-command returns 0
fi
```

See `check_user.sh` for an example.

Before we look in detail at test commands, we need to see the full version:


```
if <test-command> ; then
    <statements>
elif <other-test-commands> ; then
    <other-statements>
else
    <default-commands>;
fi
```

- ▶ There can be 0 or more `elif` clauses.
- ▶ There can be 0 or 1 `else` clause.

Parameters II - Arrays

Arrays: Collections

While a simple parameter stores a single value, an array is a **collection**: it can store more than one value.

Kinds of Arrays

- ▶ *indexed* arrays¹⁶ store **lists** of values referred to by a nonnegative integer, e.g. `lines[3]`, `lines[4]` and `lines[10]` could contain some lines from a file;
- ▶ *associative* arrays store **key-value pairs**, e.g. `nb_reads['rec_A']` for the number of reads mapping to the *recA* gene, `nb_reads['oxlT']` the number mapping to *oxlT*, etc.

We will cover indexed arrays, see the supplementary slides for the associative variety.

¹⁶or just “arrays” for short

Indexed Arrays

```
ary=(1 two 'Hey there') # create whole array
ary[3]=foo               # set individual element
ary+=(bar)               # append
unset ary[1]             # delete element
unset ary                 # delete array
echo ${ary[0]}           # 0-based
declare -p ary            # inspect array
```

Accessing All Array Elements

Using `*` or `@` as index refers to all array elements, but with subtle differences depending on quoting:¹⁷

```
names=('Bilbo Baggins' Beorn Gollum)
showa ${names[@]}      # (or *): 4 arguments!
showa "${names[@]}"    # 3 arguments
showa "${names[*]}"    # 1 argument
IFS=','; echo "${names[*]}"; unset IFS
```

The `#` operator yields the number of elements

```
echo ${#names[@]} # (or *)
```

¹⁷And also on whether or not word splitting occurs.

Iterating over an Array

```
for e in "${array[@]"}"; do ... ; done
```

Example of Array Usage

Cf. `../src/pascal.sh`

Arrays and Word Splitting

Word splitting is *NOT disabled* when creating arrays:

```
elements='A B "C D"' # no split  
array=(elements) # split -> 4 elements!
```

Neither is file globbing:

```
pdf_glob=*.pdf; echo "$pdf_glob"  
PDF_S=$pdf_glob ; echo "$PDF_S"  
PDF_A=(pdf_glob); declare -p PDF_A
```

Array Caveats

- ▶ If no index is given, 0 is assumed:

```
names=(Frodo Lobelia Arwen)
echo $names # = ${names[0]}
           # -> Frodo, NOT whole array!
```

- ▶ Arrays can't be assigned as values:

```
# Try to make a copy of `names`
lotr_names=names # WRONG - string assignment
lotr_names=$names # WRONG - see above
lotr_names=(${lotr_names[@]}) # OK
```

Functions

Motivating Example

See `./src/func_motiv*.sh`

Functions

A *function* is like a miniature script that can be called from within another script. Calling a function causes its code to be executed, but does not by itself start a new process.

We write functions in order to:

- ▶ Re-use code (DRY principle).
- ▶ Improve the clarity of the code.
- ▶ Avoid creating new processes (they have a cost: see `noop_test.sh`)

Definition

Functions are defined with one of the following forms:

```
my_func() {  
  <commands> # function body  
}
```

```
function my_func {  
  <commands> # function body  
}
```

Call

A function is called just like a command. Arguments are passed in the same way:

```
my_func arg1 "$value"
```

Positional parameters (`$1`, `$@`, `shift`, etc.) work in the same way as in scripts.

Local Variables

By default, all variables in Bash are **global**: once set, they can be accessed from anywhere in the script.

Variables defined in a function can¹⁸ be declared as **local**, so that they are only available in the namespace of that function:

```
my_var='a'
my_func() {
    local my_var='b'    # A different variable.
}
```

See `../src/func.sh`.

¹⁸And usually should

“Returning values” from functions

Shell functions **do not** return values¹⁹: instead, they return an exit status, again behaving like commands.

To pass data back to the caller: (i) have the function output the value of interest, and (ii) use command substitution over the function call.

```
my_func() { echo "Hi!"; }  
result=$(my_func) # Called just like any command.
```

The exit status is that of the last command in the function body, but it can be overridden with the `return` keyword.

¹⁹Unlike in pretty much every other language.

Practice

Let's practice using functions to avoid duplication.

→ **Exercise 2.5** - Introduction to functions.

Conclusion

- ▶ We have seen how the shell operates, including tokenizing, parsing, the various forms of expansions, conditionals and arithmetic.
- ▶ We have used this knowledge (and more) to write a script that converts Fasta to CSV. It's not efficient, but it's easy to understand.
- ▶ You should now be able to start writing your own scripts.

May You Solve Interesting Problems

For some people, myself included, the satisfaction of solving a problem is the difference between work and drudgery. [...] Besides, once I accomplish my task, I congratulate myself on being clever. I feel like I have done a little bit of magic and spared myself some dull labor.

Dale Dougherty and Arnold Robbins, *sed & awk* (2010)

Learning shell scripting - Resources

- ▶ `man bash` - always handy, if a bit terse.
- ▶ `help` - for Bash builtins etc.
- ▶ The [Bash website](#) and especially the [Bash Manual](#) (not the same as `man bash`!).
- ▶ The [Advanced Bash Scripting Guide](#).
- ▶ The [Bash Cheat Sheet](#).
- ▶ The [Bash Programming Reference](#). is another cheatsheet, more specialized towards programming.

- ▶ [Shellcheck](#) - static analysis tool
- ▶ [Bash Cookbook](#)
- ▶ [Bash Idioms](#)

Thanks!

- ▶ Thank you all for your attention!
- ▶ Special thanks to Robin
- ▶ Thanks to the Course Organizers

Supplementary Slides

Arguments don't have to be filenames

- ▶ We have used `$1` to specify a data file (by its name).
- ▶ The effect is similar to redirecting `stdin` to that file.
- ▶ This is very frequent.
- ▶ But positional parameters can of course be used for countless other purposes.

read (cont'd)

The command fails (returns 1) if it can't read anything.

There can be more than one identifiers:

```
read x y z <<< '1 2 3'  
# x=1, y=2, y=3
```

read (final)

If there are more words (after splitting) than there are identifiers, the last identifier gets the extra words:

```
read x y z <<< '1 2 3 4 5'  
# x: 1, y: 2, z: 3 4 5
```

If there is only one identifier, it captures the whole line:

```
read line
```

If there are fewer words than identifiers, the extra identifiers are set to an empty string.

for loop - Example 2

Another typical case is with a sequence, often generated by a brace expansion (here `{1..10}` expands to the numbers from 1 to 10):

```
# Compute the squares of numbers from 1 to 10.  
for n in {1..10} ; do echo $((n**2)) ; done
```

(recall that `$((...))` is arithmetic expansion)

for loop - 2nd form ("C form")

Another way to write a `for` loop is using the **C syntax**²⁰.

```
for ((<start-cmd>; <condition>; <iteration-cmd>)); do  
    <list>;  
done
```

1. Evaluate `<start-cmd>`.
2. Evaluate `<condition>`; if true execute `<list>`, if not exit loop.
3. Evaluate `<iteration-cmd>` and go back to 2.

The evaluations are done in shell arithmetic.

²⁰So named because it was copied from the C language

Example: `for` loop, 2nd form

```
# Powers of 2 smaller than 10000.  
for ((p=1; p<10000; p=2*p)); do  
    echo $p  
done
```

Notes:

- ▶ Geometric, not arithmetic progression (as in `{1..10}`).
- ▶ Only numeric (no globs, etc.).

until loop

This works like the `while` loop, except that the body is executed as long as the test *fails*.

```
until <conditional> ; do  
  <statements>  
done
```


Constants

You can prevent a parameter from changing values

```
declare -r PI=3.14159  
PI=4096  
# -> bash: PI: readonly variable
```

Readonly variables can't be `unset`.

Defaults for Null and Unset

The “default” operator `:-` substitutes a value if a parameter is unset or null.

```
unset notset
echo $notset
echo ${notset:-default}
null=
echo $null
echo ${null:-default}
```

Variants

- ▶ `:=` also *sets* the variable.
- ▶ Both have forms (`-`, `=`) that only check for unset (not null).

Notes:

- ▶ There must be **no whitespace** around `-`, `:-`, etc..
- ▶ The right-hand side is *expanded*:

```
unset var; msg="Unset var!"; echo ${var-$msg}
```

Associative Arrays

Associative arrays *must* be declared as such:

```
declare -A aar
aar[key1]=val1
declare -A aar=(K1 V1 K2 V2)
echo ${aar[key1]}
```

The behaviour is otherwise very similar to that of indexed arrays.

Note: `*` and `@` work on the *values*, to expand the *keys* use a `!`: `${!aar[*]}`, etc.

Associative Array Caveats

The order in which associative array elements are expanded is **unpredictable**. In particular, there is *no guarantee* that values (or keys) will be listed in the order they were added to the array.

Matching Regular Expressions

The `=~` operator matches against POSIX regular expressions²¹

```
[[ abc =~ .bc ]] # true
[[ abc =~ abc? ]] # true
[[ abc == abc? ]] # false (glob)
```

²¹à la `grep`, `Perl`, `sed`, and so many others... each with its own dialect, all different from globs :-)

No floating-point?

```
echo $((5/2))      # wtf?  
echo $((5.0/2.0))  # fails!
```

→ use an external program²²

```
echo "scale=1; $b/$a" | bc  
bc <<< "$scale=1; $b/$a"  
result=$(bc <<< "$scale=1; $b/$a") && echo $result
```

²²In the same way you use `sed`, `awk` etc. when the shell's string functions are too limited

String Conditionals

The following operate on strings

Operator	True if
<code>s</code>	<code>s</code> is a non-empty string
<code>s1 == s2</code>	<code>s1</code> and <code>s2</code> are equal strings
<code>s1 = s2</code>	idem (note spaces!)
<code>s1 != s2</code>	<code>s1</code> and <code>s2</code> are different
<code>s1 < s2</code>	<code>s1</code> comes before <code>s2</code> alphabetically
<code>s1 > s2</code>	<code>s1</code> comes after <code>s2</code> alphabetically

Numeric Conditionals

The following operators also operate on strings, but *treat their operands numerically*²³:

Operator	Meaning (numerically)
<code>s1 -eq s2</code>	$s1 = s2$
<code>s1 -ne s2</code>	$s1 \neq s2$
<code>s1 -lt s2</code>	$s1 < s2$
<code>s1 -le s2</code>	$s1 \leq s2$
<code>s1 -gt s2</code>	$s1 > s2$
<code>s1 -ge s2</code>	$s1 \geq s2$

²³Using shell arithmetic, more on this shortly

This way things make more sense:

```
[[ 2+2 -eq 4 ]] # true  
[[ 10 -lt 2 ]] # false!
```

Appendix I: Sample Formats

General Feature Format (GFF)

```
##gff-version 3.1.26
##sequence-region ctg123 1 1497228
ctg123 . gene 1000 9000 . + . ID=gene00001;Name=EDEN
ctg123 . mRNA 1050 9000 . + . ID=mRNA00001;Parent=...
ctg123 . mRNA 1050 9000 . + . ID=mRNA00002;Parent=...
ctg123 . mRNA 1300 9000 . + . ID=mRNA00003;Parent=...
ctg123 . exon 1300 1500 . + . ID=exon00001;Parent=...
ctg123 . exon 1050 1500 . + . ID=exon00002;Parent=...
ctg123 . exon 3000 3902 . + . ID=exon00003;Parent=...
```

Variant Call Format (VCF)

```
##fileformat=VCFv4.3
##source=myImputationProgramV3.1
...
#CHROM POS ID REF ALT QUAL FILTER INFO ...
20 14370 rs6054257 G A 29 PASS NS=3;...
20 17330 . T A 3 q10 NS=3;...
20 1110696 rs6040355 A G,T 67 PASS NS=2;...
20 1230237 . T . 47 PASS NS=3;...
20 1234567 microsat1 GTC G,GTCT 50 PASS NS=3;...
```