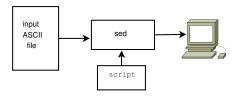
sed and awk Programming

March 2017

sed

- Character Stream Processor for ASCII files
 - not really an editor!
- Operational model: sed scans the input ASCII file on a line-by-line fashion and applies a set of rules to all lines.
- sed has three options:
 - -e : script is on the command line (default case)
 - -f: finds all rules that are applied in a specific (script) file.
 - -n : suppresses the output



Invoking sed

- ▶ bash > sed -e 'address command' inputfile
- ▶ bash > sed -f script.sed inputfile
- each instructions given to sed consists of an address and command.
- Sample sed-script file:

```
#This line is a comment
2,14 s/A/B/
30d
40d
```

- 1. From lines 2 to 14 substitute the character A with B
- 2. Line 30 delete it!
- 3. Line 40 delete it!

sed 's/[0-9]//g'

```
gympie: ~/Samples$ cat lista
john
            32
                     london
eduardo
           19
                     brazilia
       97
winnie
                     cordoba
           21
                     athens
jean
           7
                     huenosaires
marco
filip
           23
                     telaviv
           15
dennis
                     brisbane
louis
           31
                     heraclion
dimi
            34
                     heraclion
ji
            27
                     washington
            33
hyseyin
                     izmir
gympie: ~/Samples$
```

gympie:~/Samples\$ cat lista | sed 's/[0-9]//g'

```
john
                    london
eduardo
                    brazilia
winnie
                    cordoba
jean
                    athens
marco
                    huenosaires
filip
                    telaviv
dennis
                    brisbane
louis
                    heraclion
dimi
                    heraclion
ji
                    washington
hysevin
                    izmir
gympie: ~/Samples$
```

Substitution at the front and at the end of a line

```
gympie: "/Samples$ cat lista | sed 's/$/>>>/'
iohn
            32
                     london>>>
eduardo
            19
                     brazilia>>>
winnie
            97
                     cordoba>>>
iean
            21
                      athens>>>
marco
            7
                     huenosaires>>>
filip
            23
                     telaviv>>>
dennis
            15
                     hrishane>>>
louis
            31
                     heraclion>>>
dimi
            34
                     heraclion>>>
            27
ji
                     washington>>>
hyseyin
            33
                      izmir>>>
```

```
<<< john
                32
                           london>>>
<<<eduardo
                19
                           brazilia>>>
<<<wi>uinnie
                97
                           cordoba>>>
<<<iean
                21
                          athens>>>
<<<marco
                           buenosaires>>>
<<<filip
                23
                          telaviv>>>
<<<dennis
                15
                           hrishane>>>
<<<10uis
                31
                          heraclion>>>
<<<dimi
                34
                          heraclion>>>
<<<iii
                27
                           washington>>>
<<<hyseyin
                33
                           izmir>>>
gympie: ~/Samples$
```

Entire-Pattern and Numbered-Buffer Substitutions

- & : designates the entire pattern (just matched).
- ▶ \(and \): designate a numbered pattern later on identified by its respective number-id such as: \1, \2, \3, etc.

Examples with Entire/Numbered-Buffers Substitutions

```
gympie: "/Samples$ cat tilefona
Alex Delis 6973304567
Mike Hatzopoulos 6934400567
Thomas Sfikopulos 6945345098
Stavros Kolliopulos 6911345123
Aggelos Kiagias 6978098765
gympie: "/Samples$
```

```
Alex Delis 6973-30-4567

Mike Hatzopoulos 6934-40-0567

Thomas Sfikopulos 6945-34-5098

Stavros Kolliopulos 6911-34-5123

Aggelos Kiagias 6978-09-8765

gympie: ~/ Samples$
```

Another Example

gympie:~/Samples\$ cat pricelist

```
**This is the price list**
of good today
Breakfast 10.03
Lunch 11.45
Dinner 7.56
```

gympie:~/Samples\$ sed 's/[0-9]/\$&/' pricelist

```
**This is the price list**
of good today
Breakfast $10.03
Lunch $11.45
Dinner $7.56
```

gympie:~/Samples\$ sed 's/[0-9]/\$&/3' pricelist

```
**This is the price list**
of good today
Breakfast 10.$03
Lunch 11.$45
Dinner 7.5$6
gympie:~/Samples$
```

Local and global substitutions

gympie: '/Samples\$ cat text2
I had a black dog, a white dog, a yellow dog and
a fine white cat and a pink cat as well as a croc.
These are my animals: dogs, cats and a croc.

gympie: "/Samples\$ cat text2 | sed '1 s/dog/DOG/g'

I had a black DOG, a white DOG, a yellow DOG and a fine white cat and a pink cat as well as a croc. These are my animals: dogs, cats and a croc.

gympie: "/Samples\$ cat text2 | sed '1 s/dog/DOG/'

I had a black DOG, a white dog, a yellow dog and a fine white cat and a pink cat as well as a croc. These are my animals: dogs, cats and a croc.

gympie:~/Samples\$ cat text2 | sed 's/dog/DOG/g'

I had a black DOG, a white DOG, a yellow DOG and a fine white cat and a pink cat as well as a croc. These are my animals: DOGs, cats and a croc.

gympie: "/Samples\$ cat text2 | sed '1,2 s/cat/CAT/2'

I had a black dog, a white dog, a yellow dog and a fine white cat and a pink CAT as well as a croc. These are my animals: dogs, cats and a croc. gympie: '/Samples\$

Suppressing the outpur (-n) - creating new (p/w)

```
gympie: 7/Samples$ 1s -1
total 48
-rw-r--r- 1 ad ad 328 2010-03-05 11:54 lista
drwxr-xxr-x 2 ad ad 4096 2010-03-05 14:21 MyDir1
drwxr-xxr-x 2 ad ad 4096 2010-03-05 14:21 MyDir2
-rw-r--r- 1 ad ad 0 2010-03-04 23:45 out1
-rw-r--r- 1 ad ad 112 2010-03-05 10:08 pricelist
-rwxr-xxr-x 1 ad ad 51 2010-03-03 18:23 script1
-rw-r--r- 1 ad ad 1603 2010-03-04 23:42 text1
-rw-r--r- 1 ad ad 146 2010-03-05 13:56 text2
-rw-r--r- 1 ad ad 165 2010-03-05 09:56 tilefona
```



```
-rw-r--r- lista
-rw-r--r- out1
-rw-r--r- pricelist
-rwxr-xx-x script1
-rw-r--r- text1
-rw-r--r- text2
-rw-r--r- tilefona
gympie: "/Samples$
```

Transforming Characters (option y)

```
gympie: "/Samples$ more text2
I had a black dog, a white dog, a yellow dog and
a fine white cat and a pink cat as well as a croc.
These are my animals: dogs, cats and a croc.
```

```
gympie:~/Samples$ cat text2 | sed 'y/abcdt/ADCBQ/'
```

I hAB A DlACk Bog, A whiQe Bog, A yellow Bog AnB A fine whiQe CAQ AnB A pink CAQ As well As A CroC. These Are my AnimAls: Bogs, CAQs AnB A CroC.gympie:~/Samples\$

Additional sed Input and Output Commands

- ▶ Next (n): forces sed to read the next text line from input file.
- ▶ Append Next (N): adds the next input line to the current content of the pattern space.
- Print (p): copies the current content of the pattern space to the standard output.
- ▶ Print First Line (P): prints the cotent of the pattern space upto and including a newline character.
- List (1): displays "hidden" characters found in the lines of the file.
- Read (r): reads from a file
- ▶ Write (w): writes to a file

The Next Command (n)

```
gympie: "/Samples$ cat sedn
/^[a-z]/{
    /^$/d
gympie: ~/Samples$ cat -n text2
       I had a black dog, a white dog, a yellow dog and
       a fine white cat and a pink cat as well as a croc.
       These are my animals: dogs, cats and a croc.
gympie: ~/Samples$ sed -f sedn text2
I had a black dog, a white dog, a yellow dog and
a fine white cat and a pink cat as well as a croc.
These are my animals: dogs, cats and a croc.
gympie: ~/Samples$
```

 \rightarrow n forces sed to read the next line from input. Before reading the next line, sed copies the current content of the pattern space to the output, deletes the current text in the pattern space, and then refills it with the next input line. After reading, it applies the script.

Append Next (N) command

```
gympie: 7/Samples$ cat text3
1111111
22222222
bbbbbbb
cccccccv
jhdskjhj
ldjlkjds
lkdjsj44
gympie: 7/Samples$
```

```
gympie:"/Samples$ more sedN
{
    N
    s/\n/ /
}
gympie:"/Samples$
```

```
gympie:~/Samples$ !sed
sed -f sedN text3
11111111 22222222
bbbbbbbb cccccccv
jhdskjhj ldjlkjds
lkdjsj44
```

 \rightarrow While n clears the pattern space before inputting the next line, append (N) does not; it adds the next input line to the current content of the pattern space.

A more interesting example with command N

I had a black dog, a white dog, a yellow dog and a fine white cat and a pink cat as well as a croc.

gympie: ~/Samples\$ cat text2

```
These are my animals: dogs, cats and a croc.
This is a test
gympie: ~/Samples$
gympie: ~/Samples$ cat sednotN
/^$/ {
    $ 1 N
    /^\n$/D
gympie: ~/Samples$
gympie: ~/Samples$ sed -f sednotN text2
I had a black dog, a white dog, a yellow dog and
a fine white cat and a pink cat as well as a croc.
These are my animals: dogs, cats and a croc.
This is a test
gympie: ~/Samples$
```

Understading the script

- What happens, should you replace D with d?
 - ▶ \$!N means "if line is not the last line"
 - \$N means "if line is the last line in the text"
 - ▶ D command: delete up to the first embedded newline in the pattern space. Start next cycle, but skip reading from the input if there is still data in the pattern space.
 - ▶ d command: delete pattern space. Start next cycle.

The p command

```
gympie: ~/Samples$ sed -n '2,3p' text3
2222222
bbbbbbbb
gympie: ~/Samples$ sed 'p' text3
11111111
11111111
2222222
2222222
bbbbbbbb
bbbbbbbb
CCCCCCCV
ccccccv
jhdskjhj
jhdskjhj
ldjlkjds
ldjlkjds
lkdjsj44
lkdjsj44
gympie: ~/Samples$
```

P command: prints content of the pattern-space upto including a newline char

```
gympie: "/Samples$ cat text4
I had a black dog, a white dog,
a yellow dog and a pink lion
a fine white cat and
a pink cat as well as a croc.
These are my animals:
dogs, cats and a croc.
This is a test
gympie: "/Samples$
```

```
gympie:<sup>-</sup>/Samples$ cat setprintkt
$!N
/\n /P
D
```

```
gympie: "/Samples$ sed -f setprintkt text4
a yellow dog and a pink lion
a fine white cat and
gympie: "/Samples$
```

A good way to see "invisible" characters

gympie: ~/Samples\$ sed -n '1' text4

gympie: ~/Samples\$

```
I had a black dog, a white dog, $
a yellow dog and a pink lion$
\ta fine white cat and $
\ta pink cat as well as a croc.$
These are my animals: $
dogs, cats and a croc.$
This is a test$
```

Reading files in a text with r

```
gympie: "/Samples$ cat maintext

This is blah blah blah...
and more blah blah blah...
and even more....
blah blah blah...
gympie: "/Samples$ cat mainheader

THIS IS THE TEXT
gympie: "/Samples$ cat maindate

Sat Mar 6 18:17:14 EET 2010
gympie: "/Samples$

gympie: "/Samples$ cat sedread
```

```
gympie:~/Samples$ cat sedread
1 r mainheader
$ r maindate
gympie:~/Samples$
```

```
gympie: "/Samples$ sed -f sedread maintext

THIS IS THE TEXT
This is blah blah blah...
and more blah blah blah blah...
and even more...
blah blah blah...

Sat Mar 6 18:17:14 EET 2010
gympie: "/Samples$
```

Separating lines to different files with w command

```
Mon 7:00 Get up!
Tue 7:00 Get up!
Wed 7:00 Get up!
Thu 7:00 Get up!
Fri 7:00 Get up!
Mon 7:30 Get Washed
Tue 7:30 Get Washed
..... etc etc
gympie: ~/Samples$ cat sedwrite
/Mon/w Mon.log
/Tue/w Tue.log
/Wed/w Wed.log
/Thu/w Thu.log
/Fri/w Fri.log
gympie: "/Samples$ sed -nf sedwrite log-events
gympie: ~/Samples$ cat sedwrite
/Mon/w Mon.log
/Tue/w Tue.log
/Wed/w Wed.log
/Thu/w Thu.log
/Fri/w Fri.log
gympie: ~/Samples$ ls *log
Fri.log Mon.log Thu.log Tue.log Wed.log
gympie: ~/Samples$
```

The awk Pattern Scanning and Processing Language

- scans text files line-by-line and searches for patterns.
- works in a way similar to sed but it is more versatile.
- Sample runs:

awk Pattern Morphing and Processing

- General invocation options:
 - 1. awk -f filewithawkcommands inputfile
 - 2. awk '{awk-commands}' inputfile

awk basic file-instruction layout

```
 \begin{array}{ll} \mathsf{BEGIN} & \{\mathsf{declarations}; \, \mathsf{action}(\mathsf{s}); \} \\ \mathsf{pattern}_1 & \{\, \mathsf{action}(\mathsf{s}); \, \} \\ \mathsf{pattern}_2 & \{\, \mathsf{action}(\mathsf{s}); \, \} \\ \mathsf{pattern}_3 & \{\, \mathsf{action}(\mathsf{s}); \, \} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \mathsf{pattern}_n & \{\, \mathsf{action}(\mathsf{s}); \, \} \\ \mathsf{END} & \{\, \mathsf{action}(\mathsf{s}); \, \} \end{array}
```

- ▶ Either pattern or action may be left out.
- ▶ If *no* action exists, simply the input matching line is placed on the output.

Records and Fields

- ▶ Input is divided into "records" ended by a terminator character whose default value is \n.
- ► FILENAME: the name of the current input file.
- ► Each record is divided into "fields" separated by white-space blanks *OR* tabs.
- ▶ Fields are referred to as \$1, \$2, \$3,
- ► The entire string (record) is denoted as \$0
- ▶ NR: is the number of current record.
- NF: number of fields in the line
- FS: field separator (default " ")
- ▶ RS: record separator (default \n)

Printing in awk

- {print}
 ⇒ print the entire input file to output.
- 2. {print \$2, \$1}⇒ print field₂ and field₁ from input file.
- 3. { print NR, NF, \$0 }
 ⇒ print the number of the current record, the number of its
 fields, and the entire record.
- 4. { print \$1 > "foo"; print \$2 > "bar" } \Rightarrow print fields into multiple output files; >> can be also used.
- 5. { print \$1 > \$2 } \Rightarrow the name of $field_2$ is used as a file (for output).
- 6. { printf("%8.2f %-20s \n",\$1, \$2); } \Rightarrow pretty-printing with C-like notation.

Patterns in awk

- patterns in front of actions act as selectors.
- awk file: special keywords BEGIN and END provide the means to gain control before and after the processing of awk:

Output:

```
gympie: "/Samples cat awkfile1
alex:delis
mike: hatzopoulos
dimitris: achlioptas
elias: koutsoupias
alex: eleftheriadis
gympie: "/Samples awk -f awk1 awkfile1
delis
hatzopoulos
achlioptas
koutsoupias
eleftheriadis
5
gympie: "/Samples 

gympie: "/
```

Regular Expressions (some initial material)

- ▶ /simth/
 ⇒ find all lines that contains the string "smith"
- ▶ /[Aa]ho|[Ww]einberger|[Kk]ernigham/ ⇒ find all lines containing the strings "Aho" or "Weinberger" or "Kernighham" (starting either with lower or upper case).
 - ♦ | : alternative
 - ♦ + : one or more
 - ? zero or one
 - ♦ [a-zA-Z0-9]: matches any of the letters or digits
- ► /\/.*\// : ⇒ matches any set of characters enclosed between two slashes.
- ▶ \$1~/[jJ]ohny/ or \$1!~/[jJ]ohny/
 ⇒ matches (or not!) all records whose first field in Johny or
 johny.

Relational Expressions: <, <=, ==, !=, >=, >

- → '\$2 > \$1 + 100'

 ⇒ selects lines whose records comply with the condition.
- NF%2 == 0°
 ⇒ project lines with even number of records.
- → '\$1 >= "kitsos"'

 ⇒ display all lines whose first parameter is alphanumerically greater or equal to "kitsos".

Combinations of Patterns:

- ► || (OR), && (AND) and ! (not).
- Expressions evaluated left-to-right
- ► Example: (1 >= "s") && (1 < "t") && (1 < "t")

Pattern Ranges:

'/start/,/stop/': prints all lines that contain string start or stop.

Built-in Functions

- ▶ {print (length(\$0)),\$0 } OR {print length,\$0}
- sqrt, log (base e), exp, int, cos(x), sin(x), srand(x), atan2(y,x)
- substr(s,m,n): produces the string s that starts at position m and is at most n characters.
- ▶ index(s1,s2): return the position in which s2 starts in the string s1.
- ➤ x=sprintf("%8.3f %10d \n", \$1, \$2); ⇒ sets string x to values produced by \$1 and \$2.

Variables, Expressions and Assignments

▶ x=1

• awk uses int/char variables based on context.

```
x='smith'
x="3"+"4" (x is set to 7)

variable are set in the BEGIN section of the code but by
default, are initialized anywhere to NULL (or implicitly to zero)
{ s1 += $1 ; s2 += $2 }
END { print s1, s2 }
if $1 and $2 are floats, s1, s2, also function as floats.
```

Regular Expressions and Metacharacters

Regular-expression Metacharacters are:

- ► A basic regular expression (BRE) is:
 - ▶ a non-metacharacter matches itself such as A.
 - ▶ an escape character that matches a special symbol: \t (tab), \b (backspace), \n (newline) etc.
 - ▶ a quoted metacharacter (matching itself): * matches the *star* symbol.
 - ^ matches the *beginning* of a string.
 - \$ matches the end of a string.
 - matches any single character.
 - ▶ a character class [ABC] matches a single A, B, or C.
 - character classes abbreviations [A-Za-z] matches any single character.
 - a complementary class of characters [^0-9] matches any character except a digit
 (what would the pattern /^[^0-9] / match?)

More Complex Regular Expressions using BREs

♦ Operators that can combine BREs (see below A, B, r) into larger regular expressions:

```
A|B matches A or B (alternation)

AB A followed by B (concatenation)

A* zero or more As (closure)
```

A+ at least one A or more (positive closure)

A? matches the null string or A (zero or one)

(r) matches the same string as r (parentheses)

Examples:

- /^[0-9]+\$/ matches any input lines that consists of only digits.
- ▶ /^[+-]?[0-9]+[.]?[0-9]*\$/ matches a decimal number with an optional sign and optional fraction.
- ▶ /^[A-Za-z]|^[A-Za-z][0-9]\$/ a letter or a letter followed by a digit.
- ▶ /^[A-Za-z][0-9]?\$/ a letter or a letter followed by a digit.
- /\/.*\// matches any set of characters enclosed between two slashes
- ▶ \$1~/[jJ]ohny/ matches all records whose first field is Johny or johny
- ▶ \$1!~/[jJ]ohny/ matches all records whose first field is not *Johny* or *johny*.

Dealing with Field Values

```
gympie: ~/Samples$ cat awk2
{    if ($2> 1000)
        $2 = "too big";
    print;
}
gympie: ~/Samples$
```

```
gympie: ~/Samples$ awk -f awk2 test5
ddd 100
eee too big
rrr 99
fff 899
f11 too big
f2 992
gympie: ~/Samples$
```

Splitting a string into its Elements using an array

• The function split() helps separate a string into a number of token (each token being part of the resulting array).

```
BEGIN{ sep= ";" }
{ n = split ($0, myarray, sep); }
END {
    print "the string is:"$0;
    print "the number of tokens is="n;
    print "The tokens are:"
    for (i=1;i<=n;i++)
        print myarray[i];
}</pre>
```

```
gympie: "/Samples$ cat data3
alexis;delis;apostolos;nikolaos
gympie: "/Samples$ awk -f awk3 data3
the string is:alexis;delis;apostolos;nikolaos
the number of tokens is=4
The tokens are:
alexis
delis
apostolos
nikolaos
gympie: "/Samples$
```

Arrays

- Feature: Arrays are not declared they are simply used!
- 'X[NR]=\$0' assigns current line to the NR element of array X
- Arrays can be used to collect statistics:

```
gympie: "/Samples$ awk -f awk4 text5
Apple Occurrences = 8
Orange Occurrences = 5
Grape Occurrences = 4
gympie: "/Samples$
```

Control Flow Statements

- ▶ { statements }
- ▶ if (expression) statement
- ▶ if (expression) statement1 else statement2
- while (expression) statement
- for (expression1; expression2; expression3)
 statement
- for (var in array) statement
- do statement while (expression)
- break // immediately leave innermost enclosing while, for or do
- ► continue //start next iteration of innermost
 - enclosing while, for or do
- next //start next iteration of main input loop
- exit
- exit expression //return expression value as program status

Example with while

```
gympie: "/Samples$ cat awk5
{    i=1
        while (i <= NF ) {
            print $i;
            i++;
            }
}
gympie: "/Samples$</pre>
```

```
gympie: ~/Samples$ cat data4
mitsos kitsos mpellos
alexis mitsos apostolos nikolaos
aggeliki ourania eleftheria mitsos
gympie: ~/Samples$ awk -f awk5 data4
mitsos
kitsos
mpellos
alexis
mitsos
apostolos
nikolaos
aggeliki
ourania
eleftheria
mitsos
gympie: ~/Samples$
```

Similar effect with for-loop

```
gympie: ~/Samples$ cat awk6
{ for (i=1; i<=NF; i++)
    print $i;
}
gympie: ~/Samples$</pre>
```

```
gympie:~/Samples$ awk -f awk6 data4
mitsos
kitsos
mpellos
alexis
mitsos
apostolos
nikolaos
aggeliki
ourania
eleftheria
mitsos
gympie:~/Samples$
```

Population Table

```
Asia
          Indonesia
                     230
                           376
Asia
                     160
                           154
          Japan
Asia
          India
                    1024
                         1267
Asia
          PRChina 1532
                         3705
Asia
         Russia
                  175
                           6567
Europe
      Germanv 81
                           178
Europe
      UKingdom
                   65
                           120
N. America Mexico
                    130
                        743
N America
                           3852
        Canada
                    41
S. America
        Brazil
                    150
                           3286
S. America Chile
                     8
                           112
```

```
gympie: */Samples$ more awkgeo
BEGIN{
    printf("%10s %12s %8s %10s\n","COUNTRY","AREA","POP","CONTINENT");
    printf("-----\n");
}
{
    printf("%10s %12s %8d %-12s\n",$2, $4, $3, $1);
    area = area + $4;
    pop = pop + $3;
}
END {
    printf("----\n");
    printf("---\n");
    printf("%10s in %12d km^2 %8d mil people live \n\n", "TOTAL:", area, po
p);
    }
gympie: */Samples$
```

Outcome

gympie: "/Samples	\$ awk -f a	wkgeo o	continents		
COUNTRY	AREA	POP	CONTINENT		
Indonesia	376	230	Asia		
Japan	154	160	Asia		
India	1267	1024	Asia		
PRChina	3705	1532	Asia		
Russia	6567	175	Asia		
Germany	178	81	Europe		
UKingdom	120	65	Europe		
Mexico	743	130	N.America		
Canada	3852	41	N.America		
Brazil	3286	150	S.America		
Chile	112	8	S.America		
TOTAL: in	20360	km^2	3596 mil people live		
gympie:~/Samples\$					

Computing and Graphing Deciles - User-defined Functions

```
# input: numbers from 0 to 100 - one at a line
# output: decile population graphed
   \{x[int(\$1/10)]++:\}
END {
   for (i=0: i<10: i++)
      printf("%2d - %2d: %3d %s\n",
                 10*i, 10*i+9, x[i], rep(x[i],"*");
    printf("100: %3d %s\n",x[10], rep(x[10],"*"));
#returns string of n s's
function rep(n,s) {
   t= "":
   while (n-- > 0)
     t = t s
   return t
```

Outcome (deciles)

```
gympie:~/src-set003$ awk -f awk.deciles data6
0 - 9: 3 ***
10 - 19: 3 ***
20 - 29: 5 *****
30 - 39: 6 ******
40 - 49: 12 **********
50 - 59: 14 **********
60 - 69: 14 **********
70 - 79: 12 **********
80 - 89: 6 ******
90 - 99: 5 *****
100: 2 **
gympie:~/src-set003$
```

User-defined Functions

- Function definitions may occur anywhere a pattern-action statement can.
- Functions often are listed at the end of an awk script and are separated by either newlines or semicolons.
- ► They contain a return expression statement that returns control along with the value of the expression.
- Example:

```
function mymax( a, b) {
  return a > b ? a : b
}
```

Recursive invocation:

```
{ print mymax($1, mymax($2,$3) ) }
```

Built-in String Functions

Function Name	Description	
gsub(r,s)	substitute s for r globally in \$0;	
	return number of substitutions made	
gsub(r,s,t)	substitute s for r globally in string t;	
	return number of substitutions made	
index(s,t)	return first position of t in s; otherwise zero	
length(s)	return number of characters in s	
match(s,r)	test whether s contains a substring matched by r;	
	return index or 0.	
split(s,a)	split s into array a on FS; return number of fields	
${\tt split(s,a,fs)}$	as above – fs is the defined field seperator	
<pre>sprintf(ftm,exprlst)</pre>	format an expression list	
sub(r,s)	substitute s for the leftmost longest substring of \$0 matched by r; return number of subs made.	
<pre>sub(r,s,t)</pre>	substitute s for the leftmost longest substring of t	
	matched by r ; return number of subs made.	
substr(s,p)	return suffix of s starting at position p	