Introduction to z/VM Rexx Hands-on Lab

Updated with answers to lab exercises

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Agenda

- Rexx Overview and Related Topics
- Creating and Executing Rexx Programs
- Rexx Language
 - ▶ Basic Syntax
 - ▶ Strings, Operators, Expressions
 - ▶ Tracing, Parsing
 - ► Control Constructs
 - ▶ Subroutines & Functions
 - ▶ Issuing Commands and use of Pipelines
- Lab Exercises



Rexx Overview

REstructured eXtended eXecutor

- Rexx is a procedural, general purpose language available on many platforms
 - Intuitive
 - Easy to use and read
 - ► Language concepts are the same on all platforms
 - Minor differences such as file names and structure
 - Operating system-specific tools that support Rexx



Rexx Overview (cont.)

- Few restrictions on program format
 - Indentation
 - ▶ 1 or more clauses on a line
 - /* comments can be anywhere and any length */
 - Implied semicolon delimiters at end of lines
 - ▶ Comma (,) as a continuation character
- Natural data typing
 - Meaning of data depends entirely on their usage



Rexx Overview (cont.)

Dynamic Scoping

- Efficiently interpreted because minimal look-ahead is needed
- Meaning of an instruction is only affected by the instructions already executed

Nothing to Declare!

- May document and initialize variables, but...
- Implicit declarations take place during execution
- ► labels: are the only true declarations



Rexx Overview (cont.)

- The Rexx Evolution...
 - Rexx Sockets API
 - Function package for writing socket applications
 - Object Rexx
 - Object-Oriented Rexx supporting many utilities for a UNIX-type environment, including Linux for System z
 - NetRexx
 - Blend of Rexx and Java; compiles into Java classes
 - ► Regina Rexx
 - Rexx interpreter ported to most UNIX platforms, including Linux
 - ► Etc.....
- See references page for website information



Creating Rexx Programs

Create a file with filetype of EXEC using XEDIT, the CMS editor

XEDIT myrexx exec a

Rexx programs begin with a comment line:

```
/* beginning of program */ /* Rexx */
```

- Can be run uncompiled and interpreted, or compiled with the Rexx compiler
 - Improved Performance
 - Security



Executing Rexx Programs

- Search order
 - Same for both compiled and interpreted execs
 - ► Loaded and started through CMS EXEC handler
 - Normal CMS Command search order:

EXECs, synonyms, MODULEs...

Invocation

Invoke as a CMS command or EXEC:

```
myexec -or- exec myexec
```

- Implied exec (IMPEX) settings control whether exec files are treated as commands
 - SET IMPEX ON|OFF (default is ON)
 - QUERY IMPEX



Helpful Hints for our Exercises

List Files on A-disk:

```
FILELIST * * A or... LISTFILE * * A
```

- XEDIT a file
 - from command line:

Xedit Filename Filetype Filemode

from prefix area on Filelist Screen, PF11 or :

```
X PROFILE XEDIT A1 V 75 74 1 09/17/07 15:48:18
```

- Prefix area commands within the file:
 - a add (insert) a single line to the file
 - d delete a line (d5 deletes 5 lines)
 - m move a line (f following or p preceding)
 - c copy a line (f following or p preceding)

mm...mm block move, dd...dd block del, cc...cc block copy



Helpful Hints for our Exercises (cont.)

- Screen execution modes
 - CP Read
 - CP is waiting for a command
 - VM Read
 - CMS is waiting for a command
 - Running
 - System is ready for commands or is working on some
 - ► More ...
 - More information than can fit on the screen is waiting to be displayed)
 - Clear screen manually or let CP clear after x seconds determined by TERM command setting
 - Holding
 - Waiting for you to clear screen manually
 - Not Accepted
 - Too many commands in buffer; wait for executing command to complete)



Lab Exercises: What to Expect...

- 1. Update an existing Rexx program to format a string
- 2. Write a program to accept an input argument, prompt for data, and display results
- 3. Trace and Debug existing Rexx programs
- Write a sort program using stems and various control constructs
- Write a program using a subroutine to issue CMS commands and Pipes to query accessed disks
- 6. Write a program to obtain z/VM CP level information



Logging on to the z/VM Lab System

- 3270 Session
- Userids and Passwords



Rexx Language Syntax

Case Insensitivity

Denver is the same as **denver**

- specific support for upper and lower case is provided
- cases in quoted strings are respected
- All Rexx programs must begin with a comment

```
/* This is a comment */
```

- Long lines are common
 - Continuation with commas

May wrap as a long single line (but don't do this)

```
say 'This text is continued on the next line'
```



Rexx Strings

 Literal strings: Groups of characters inside single or double quotation marks

```
"Try a game of blackjack", 'and beat the odds!'
```

Two " or ' indicates a " or ' in the string

```
'Guess the dealer''s top card'
"The dealer""s card is an Ace"
```

Hexadecimal strings: Hex digits (0-9,a-f,A-F) grouped in pairs:

```
'123 45'x is the same as '01 23 45'x
```

Binary strings: Binary digits (0 or 1) grouped in quads:

```
'10000 10101010'b is the same as '0001 0000 1010 1010'b
```

Input and Output

say [expression]

writes output to the user's terminal

```
say 'Five Euros equals ' ,
5 * 1.30 'USD'
```

pull

prompts for input from the user's terminal

```
pull rate
say 'Five Euros equals' 5 * rate 'USD'
```

parse arg

- collects arguments passed to a Rexx Program
 - Invoke program: EXAMP input1 dataX moreData parse arg A1 A2 A3

```
parse arg Al A2 A3 say Al A2 A3
```

Result:

```
input1 dataX moreData
```



Exercise 1: Syntax and Strings

Adjust STRING EXEC to provide the following output:

```
" T'
was a dark and stormy night. Ne'er
before, in all their days, had th
e hackers seen a
program so complex ... "
```



Exercise 1: Syntax and Strings - Answer

```
/* STRING EXEC - Syntax and Strings */
say '" T'''
say "was a dark and stormy night. Ne'er"
say 'before, in all their days, had th'
say 'e hackers seen a'
say "program so complex ... """
```



Operators & Expressions

String Expressions

Arithmetic Expressions

```
+ - * / % (int division) // (remainder)

** (power) Prefix - Prefix+
```



Operators & Expressions

- Comparative Expressions
 - Normal = \= <> >< > < >= <=</p>
 - comparison is case sensitive
 - leading/trailing blanks removed before compare
 - shorter strings padded with blanks on right
- Strict == \== >> << >>= \<< <<= \>>
 - comparison is case sensitive
 - if 2 strings = except one is shorter, the shorter string is less than the longer string
- Logical Expressions
 - & | &&
 - (preceding expression)

Note: the "not" sign and backslash " \ " are synonymous



Numbers

- A Rexx character string that includes 1 or more decimal digits with an optional decimal point
 - May have leading and trailing blanks
 - ▶ Optional sign + or -
 - An "E" specifies exponential notation
 - Be careful with device addresses such as 1E00 (use quotes)
- Precision in calculations may be controlled by the NUMERIC DIGITS instruction
 - ▶ Default is 9 digits
- Examples (could also be enclosed in quotes):

12 -17.9 + 7.9E5



Variables

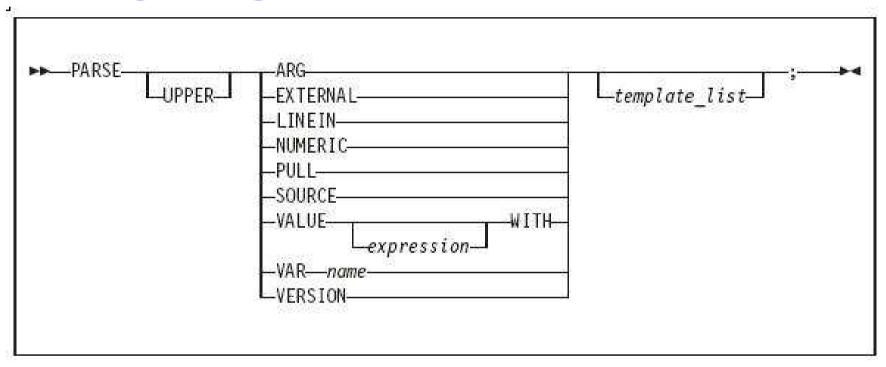
- Data known by a unique name whose value may change
- Variable names
 - ▶ NOT case sensitive
 - Cannot begin with a digit 0-9
- Defined by assignment (give it a value)

population = 184627

- Variables with no assigned value will have the uppercase variable name as its initial value
- Special variables: rc, result, sigl
 - may be set automatically during program execution



Parsing Strings



- Parse Arg takes data passed into exec or internal routine
 - (see example on "Input and Output" chart)
- Parse Var parses variable into other variable(s)



Parsing Strings...

Assigns data to variables using parsing rules

```
str1 = '04-08 May 2009'
parse var str1 w1 w2 w3
  w1 = 04-08 
 • w2 = May
 • w3 = 2009
parse upper var str1 w1 . w2
 • w1 = 04-08
 • w2 = 2009
parse var str1 w1 w2
 • w1 = 04-08
 • w2 = May 2009
```



Parsing Strings...

- Default token delimiter is a blank
 - May be changed on Parse statement

```
str1 = '04-08*May*2009'
parse var str1 w1 '*' w2 '*' w3
    w1 = 04-08
    w2 = May
    w3 = 2009
```



Exercise 2: Say, Pull, & Passing Parameters

- Assume a card deck with suits of Hearts, Diamonds, Clubs, and Spades
- Write a Rexx program to:
 - pass in 1 of the 4 suits as an argument
 - prompt for a number from 2-10
 - display the number and the suit in the format:

'Your card is a 10 of Hearts'

Run the program with different suits and numbers



Exercise 2: Say, Pull, & Passing Parameters - Answer

```
/* */
parse arg suit
say 'Enter a number from 2-10:'
pull num
say 'Your card is a 'num' of ' suit
```



Tracing

- trace All
- trace Commands
- trace Error
- trace Failure
- trace Intermediates
- trace Labels
- trace Normal
- trace Off
- trace Results
- trace Scan

- output identifier tags:
 - *-* source of a single clause
 - >>> result of expression
 - >.> value assigned to placehldr
 - +++ error messages
- prefixes if TRACE Intermediates in effect:
 - >C> data is compound variable
 - >F> data is result of func call
 - >L> data is a literal
 - >O> data is result of operation on 2 terms
 - >P> data is result of prefix op
 - >V> data is contents of variable



Tracing (cont.)

- Prefix Options! and? modify tracing and execution
 - ? controls interactive debugging

TRACE ?Results

- ! inhibits host command execution
 - TRACE !C causes command to be traced but not processed
- CMS command SET EXECTRAC ON allows you to switch tracing on without modifying the program
- TS and TE immed commands turn tracing on/off asynchronously



Tracing - Example

Program

```
/* Trace Sample Program */
Trace Intermediates
number = 1/7
say number
```

Output

```
3 *-* number = 1/7
>L> "1"
>L> "7"
>O> "0.142857143"
4 *-* say number
>V> "0.142857143"
0.142857143
```



Exercise 3: Tracing and Debugging

The following Rexx Programs are on your VM A-disk:

- REXXEX3A.EXEC
- REXXEX3B.EXEC

There is something wrong with each program

- Using the TRACE instruction, debug each problem
- Fix the code so that it functions properly



Exercise 3: Tracing and Debugging – Answer A

Trace Intermediate output:



Exercise 3: Tracing and Debugging – Answer A

Corrected Rexx Program:

string1 = "Rexx" 'Lab'

Trace T

```
say string1
string2 = "Exerc"||"ise"
say string2
Result:
6 *-* string1 = "Rexx" 'Lab'
      >L> "Rexx"
       >L> "Lab"
      >O> "Rexx Lab"
    7 *-* say string1
            "Rexx Lab"
       >V>
Rexx Lab
    9 *-* string2 = "Exerc"||"ise"
      >L> "Exerc"
       >L> "ise"
       >O> "Exercise"
   10 *-* say string2
            "Exercise"
       >V>
Exercise
```



Exercise 3: Tracing and Debugging – Answer B

Trace Intermediate output:

```
7 *-* Var1 = "25 35 71"
             "25 35 71"
       >L>
     8 *-* /* INPUT: Three positive integers */
     9 *-* /* OUTPUT: The average of these three values */
    12 *-* parse arg w1 . w2 w3
       >>>
       >.>
       >>>
       >>>
    13 *-* w3 = 25
             "25"
       >L>
    15 *-* \$average = (w1 + w2 + w3) // 3
       >V>
       >V>
    15 +++ \$average = (w1 + w2 + w3) // 3
Error 41 running REXXTR5B EXEC, line 15: Bad arithmetic conversion
```



Exercise 3: Tracing and Debugging – Answer B

Corrected Rexx Program:

```
Trace I
Var1 = "25 35 71"

/* INPUT: Three positive integers */
/* OUTPUT: The average of these three values */
parse var var1 w1 w2 w3
/* w3 = 25 */

$average = (w1 + w2 + w3) / 3
say "The average value of these numbers is" $average "."
```



Exercise 3: Tracing and Debugging – Answer B

Result:

```
7 *-* Var1 = "25 35 71"
       >L> "25 35 71"
    8 *-* /* INPUT: Three positive integers */
     9 *-* /* OUTPUT: The average of these three values */
    12 *-* parse var var1 w1 w2 w3
           "25"
       >>>
           "35"
       >>>
           "71"
       >>>
    13 *-* /* w3 = 25 */
    15 *-* $average = (w1 + w2 + w3) / 3
            "25"
       >V>
           "35"
       >V>
           "60"
       >0>
           "71"
       >V>
           "131"
       >0>
           "3"
       >L>
            "43.6666667"
       >0>
    16 *-* say "The average value of these numbers is" $average "."
            "The average value of these numbers is"
       >L>
           "43.6666667"
       >V>
           "The average value of these numbers is 43.6666667"
       >0>
            ...
       >L>
             "The average value of these numbers is 43.6666667 ."
       >0>
The average value of these numbers is 43.6666667.
```



Control Constructs - DO...END

DO ... END can be used to create a code block

```
if wins > losses then
   do
      say 'Congratulations!'
      say 'You have won!'
   end
else say 'Sorry, you have lost'
```



Control Constructs - Selection

```
if wins > losses then say 'you have won'
                 else say 'you have lost'
select
  when wins > losses then say 'winner'
 when losses > wins then say 'loser'
  otherwise say 'even'
end
select
  when wins > losses then say 'winner'
 when losses > wins then say 'loser'
  otherwise NOP
end
```



Control Constructs – DO Loops

```
do forever
  say 'You will get tired of this'
end

do 3
  say "Roll, Roll, Roll the dice"
end

do i=1 to 50 by 1
  say i
end
```



More DO Loops

```
i = 30
do until i > 21  /* Evaluate after DO executes */
  i=i+5
end
say i
              →35
i = 30
do while i < 21 /* Evaluate before DO executes */
  i=i+5
end
say i
              →30
```



Iterate and Leave

Iterate causes a branch to end of control construct

Leave exits the control construct



Symbols and Stems

Constant symbol starts with a digit (0-9) or period:

Simple symbol does not start with a digit nor contains periods:

- Compound symbol contains at least one period, and at least 2 other characters
 - ► Stem (up to 1st period), followed by tail

ABC.3 Array.i Total.name x.y.z



Built-In Functions

- Parentheses always needed in function calls even if no arguments are required
- Some commonly used functions:

```
→ 1.674
► ABS(-1.674)
► C2D('a')
                             → 129
                ────── '09/19/07'
► DATE('U')
▶ DELSTR('abcde',3,2) — 'abe'
          \triangleright D2X(129,2)
► LENGTH('abcdef')
▶ POS('day','Wednesday') —
► RIGHT('12',4,'0') _____
                               '0012'
► SUBSTR('abc',2)
▶ WORDS('are we done yet?') ───►
▶ WORDPOS('the','now is the time') → 3
```



Exercise 4: Sorting Cards - using stems and control constructs

- Write the program CARDSORT EXEC
- Set a variable called rank in your program to represent the possible card values and order:

```
rank= '2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 J Q K A'
```

- Cardsort takes an argument of 2 or more (up to 13) words representing the values of playing cards
 - ► HINT: you may want to parse the input args into a stem variable
- Sort the input values in descending order



Exercise 4: Sorting Cards - Answer

```
/* */
rank='2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 J O K A'
parse upper arg hand /* get input args
                                                      * /
num=words(hand)
                              /* count how many
                                                      * /
do i=1 to num
 parse var hand item.i hand /* place in stem
                                                      * /
end
do i=1 to num
                              /* loop through stems
  do j=i+1 to num
                              /* compare against rank*/
    if wordpos(item.j, rank) > wordpos(item.i,rank)
       then do
                                                      * /
                              /* sort them
            temp=item.j
         item.j=item.i
         item.i=temp /*after loop item.i has > num*/
       end
    end i
    hand = hand item.i
end
say hand
```



Subroutines & Procedures

- CALL instruction is used to invoke a routine
 - ▶ May be an internal routine, built-in function, or external routine
- May optionally return a result

RETURN expression

- variable result contains the result of the expression
- Parameters may be passed to the called routine

```
CALL My_Routine parm1
```

...which is functionally equivalent to the clause:

NewData = My_Routine(parm1)

 Variables are global for subroutines, but not known to procedures unless passed in or EXPOSE option used



Subroutine Example: Returning a Value

```
/* subroutine call example */
x = 5
y = 10
Call Calc x y
                            /* call subroutine Calc */
If result > 50 Then
  say "Perimeter is larger than 50"
Else
  say "Perimeter is smaller than 50"
exit
Calc:
                           /* begin subroutine
                                                    * /
                          /* input args
                                                    */
Parse Arg len width
return 2*len + 2*width /* calculate perimeter
                                                    */
                           /* ...and return it
                                                    */
```



Issuing Commands from Rexx

- Issuing commands is a way to send a message or request to some unit external to the Rexx program
- Environment is selected by default on entry to a Rexx program
 - ► ADDRESS instruction can change the active environment
 - ► ADDRESS() built-in function used to get name of the currently selected environment



Issuing z/VM Commands from Rexx

- CMS commands issued as a quoted string:
 - **▶ 'STATE PROFILE EXEC'**
- Use DIAG function to issue CP commands with Diagnose x'08'
 - **▶ DIAG(8,'QUERY CPLEVEL')**
 - Can be an expression as part of a longer statement



Issuing Commands – z/VM Example

```
Address CMS /* send cmds to CMS */
'STATE PROFILE EXEC'

If RC=0 Then /* file found */
'COPY PROFILE EXEC A TEMP = ='

Parse Value diag(8,'QUERY CPLEVEL') With queryout
```



Issuing Commands – TSO Example

```
"CONSOLE ACTIVATE"
ADDRESS CONSOLE /* change environment to CONSOLE for all commands */
"mvs cmd"
"mvs cmd"
ADDRESS TSO tso cmd /* change environment to TSO for one command */
"mvs cmd"
ADDRESS TSO
              /* change environment to TSO for all commands */
"tso cmd"
"CONSOLE DEACTIVATE"
```



Manipulating Files

- Input and output managed as streams
 - Default (terminal input and display)
 - ► File or dataset
 - ▶ Reader
 - ► Punch
 - Printer
 - ► Program stack



Manipulating Files – Input (z/VM)

- Input with function call LINEIN
 - LINEIN(name,line,count)
 - answer = LINEIN(name,line,count)
 - ► CALL LINEIN name, line, count
 - Name
 - name of input stream
 - Line
 - line number to be read
 - Default is current position in stream
 - Count
 - 1 read 1 line and advance the read position (default)
 - 0 read no lines, set read position at beginning of specified line



Manipulating Files – Output (z/VM)

- Output with function call LINEOUT
 - LINEOUT(name,string,line)
 - answer = LINEOUT(name, "Sample line", line)
 - CALL LINEOUT name, string, line
 - String
 - line of data to be written
 - Line
 - line number to write
 - Name
 - name of input stream
 - Output stream opened automatically on first LINEOUT call, closed implicitly at end of program (unless closed explicitly first)



Manipulating Files – TSO

- EXECIO Command
 - Read or write information to a dataset
 - Update an existing dataset
 - EXECIO * DISKR MYINDD (FINIS STEM MYVAR)
 - *
- entire dataset (# of lines)
- DISKR
 - read
- MYINDD
 - dataset name
- FINIS
 - close dataset after reading
- STEM MYVAR
 - place contents of dataset into stem variable MYVAR
- EXECIO is also a CMS command, usable from z/VM Rexx



Using Pipelines with Rexx

- PIPE is a command that accepts stage commands as operands
 - Stages separated by a character called a stage separator
 - Default char is vertical bar | (x'4F')
- Allows you to combine programs so the output of one serves as input to the next
 - Like pipes used for plumbing: data flows through programs like water through pipes!
- User-written stages are Rexx programs
 - Reads in data, works on it, places it back into pipe



Using Pipelines with Rexx - Examples

Invoking from CMS command line:

```
pipe < profile exec | count lines | console</pre>
```

Invoking from an Exec:

```
/* Count number of lines in exec */
'PIPE < profile exec | count lines| console'
exit</pre>
```

/* or...on multiple lines */



Using Pipelines with Rexx - Examples

• Invoking commands and putting output in a stem:



Exercise 5: MYDISKS EXEC

- Write a Rexx program to show which disks your userid has accessed
 - **1. Call a subroutine** that:
 - Uses a PIPE to issue CMS command QUERY DISK and save response
 - Determine the number of disks accessed
 - Return the value to the main routine
 - 2. **Display** the returned number of disks accessed
 - 3. Display each of the disks that are accessed
 - 4. Issue the CMS command QUERY DISK without using a PIPE
 - 5. **Verify** that output from Steps 3 and 4 match



Exercise 6: WHATCP EXEC

- Write Rexx program WHATCP EXEC to show z/VM CP Level information
 - ▶ Issue CP command QUERY CPLEVEL to display CP level
 - ▶ Use Rexx Diag function to issue QUERY CPLEVEL command
 - Parse command output to display CP Version, Release, and Service level



Exercise 5: MYDISKS EXEC - Answer #1

```
/* Find Number of disks accessed and list them */
Call GetDisks
Say 'This user has' NumDisks 'disks accessed.'
Say '
Do i = 1 to Numdisks
   Say DiskList.i
End
Say ' '
ADDRESS CMS
'QUERY DISK'
Exit
/* Subroutine: Get list of disks and return number of disks accessed*/
GetDisks:
   'PIPE',
     'CMS QUERY DISK',
     'Drop 1',
     '| STEM DiskList.'
    NumDisks = DiskList.0
Return NumDisks
```



Exercise 5: MYDISKS EXEC – Answer #2

```
/* Find Number of disks accessed and list them */
Call GetDisks
Say 'This user has' NumDisks 'disks accessed.'
Say '
Do i = 1 to Numdisks
   Say DiskList.i
End
Say ' '
ADDRESS CMS
'QUERY DISK'
Exit
/*Subroutine: Get list of disks and return number of disks accessed*/
GetDisks:
   'PIPE',
     'CMS QUERY DISK',
     ' | Drop 1',
     '| STEM DiskList.',
     ' | count lines',
     ' | var NumDisks'
Return NumDisks
```



Exercise 6: WHATCP – Answer



For More Information...

Websites:

http://www.ibm.com/software/awdtools/rexx/
http://www.ibm.com/software/awdtools/netrexx/
http://www.ibm.com/software/awdtools/obj-rexx/
http://regina-rexx.sourceforge.net/
Rexx webpage
NetRexx
Object Rexx
Regina Rexx

z/VM publications:

- Rexx/VM Reference SC24-6113
- Rexx/VM User's Guide SC24-6114
- website for library downloads: http://www.vm.ibm.com/library/

z/OS publications:

- TSO/E Rexx User's Guide SC28-1974
- ► TSO/E Rexx Reference SC28-1975
- website for library downloads: http://www-304.ibm.com/jct03004c/servers/s390/os390/bkserv/r9pdf/tsoe.html

Rexx Compiler

- Products ordered separately from z/VM:
 - REXX/370 Compiler, 5695-013
 - REXX/370 Library, 5695-014

Other books:

The Rexx Language
 The Netrexx Language
 ISBN 0-13-780651-5
 ISBN 0-13-806332-X

List servers:

http://listserv.uark.edu/scripts/wa.exe?A0=ibmvm



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