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Programming languages — APL

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Foreword

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International Standard ISO 8485 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 97, *Information processing systems*.

Users should note that all International Standards undergo revision from time to time and that any reference made herein to any other International Standard implies its latest edition, unless otherwise stated.

Annexes A and B are for information only.

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CONTENTS

0	Introduction	3
1	Scope and Field of Application	5
2	References	7
3	Form of the Standard	9
3.1	Form of Definitions	9
3.2	Named Arrays in Examples	10
3.3	Notes	10
3.4	Cross-References	10
3.5	General Definitions	11
4	Compliance	13
4.1	Conforming Implementations	13
4.1.1	Required Behaviour for Conforming Implementations	13
4.1.2	Required Documentation for Conforming Implementations	14
4.1.2.1	Documentation of Optional-Facilities	14
4.1.2.2	Documentation of Implementation-Defined-Facilities	14
4.1.2.3	Consistent Extensions	14
4.2	Conforming Programs	15
4.2.1	Required Behaviour for Conforming Programs	15
4.2.2	Required Documentation for Conforming Programs	15
5	Definitions	17
5.1	Characters	17
5.2	Numbers	19
5.2.1	Elementary Operations	19
5.2.2	Number Constants	20
5.2.3	Subsets of the Set of Numbers	21
5.2.4	Implementation Algorithms	23
5.2.5	Defined Operations	24
5.3	Objects	26
5.3.1	Lists	26
5.3.2	Arrays	27
5.3.3	Defined-Functions	29
5.3.4	Tokens	30
5.3.4.1	Metaclasses	32
5.3.4.2	Index-List	33
5.3.5	Symbols	33
5.3.6	Contexts	34
5.3.7	Workspaces	34
5.3.8	Sessions	35
5.3.9	Shared-Variables	36
5.3.10	Systems	37
5.4	Evaluation Sequences	39
5.4.1	Evaluation Sequence Phrases	39
5.4.2	Diagrams	41
5.5	Other Terms	42

6	Syntax and Evaluation		43
6.1	Introduction		43
6.1.1	Evaluate-Line		43
6.1.2	Character-Diagrams		45
6.1.3	Evaluate-Statement		52
6.1.4	Bind-Token-Class		53
6.1.5	Literal-Conversion		54
6.1.6	Statement-Analysis Token-Diagrams		55
6.2	Reduce-Statement		60
6.3	The Phrase Evaluators		63
6.3.1	Diagrams		64
6.3.2	Remove-Parentheses		65
6.3.3	Evaluate-Nulladic-Function		65
6.3.4	Evaluate-Monadic-Function		66
6.3.5	Evaluate-Monadic-Operator		68
6.3.6	Evaluate-Dyadic-Function		69
6.3.7	Evaluate-Dyadic-Operator		71
6.3.8	Evaluate-Indexed-Reference		72
6.3.9	Evaluate-Assignment		73
6.3.10	Evaluate-Indexed-Assignment		74
6.3.11	Evaluate-Variable		75
6.3.12	Build-Index-List		76
6.3.13	Process-End-of-Statement		77
6.4	The Form Table		78
7	Scalar Functions		83
7.1	Monadic Scalar Functions		84
7.1.1	Conjugate	$Z \leftarrow + B$	84
7.1.2	Negative	$Z \leftarrow - B$	84
7.1.3	Signum	$Z \leftarrow \times B$	85
7.1.4	Reciprocal	$Z \leftarrow \div B$	85
7.1.5	Floor	$Z \leftarrow \lfloor B$	86
7.1.6	Ceiling	$Z \leftarrow \lceil B$	86
7.1.7	Exponential	$Z \leftarrow * B$	87
7.1.8	Natural Logarithm	$Z \leftarrow \otimes B$	87
7.1.9	Magnitude	$Z \leftarrow B$	88
7.1.10	Factorial	$Z \leftarrow ! B$	88
7.1.11	Pi times	$Z \leftarrow \circ B$	89
7.1.12	Not	$Z \leftarrow \sim B$	89
7.2	Dyadic Scalar Functions		90
7.2.1	Plus	$Z \leftarrow A + B$	91
7.2.2	Minus	$Z \leftarrow A - B$	91
7.2.3	Times	$Z \leftarrow A \times B$	92
7.2.4	Divide	$Z \leftarrow A \div B$	92
7.2.5	Maximum	$Z \leftarrow A \lceil B$	93
7.2.6	Minimum	$Z \leftarrow A \lfloor B$	93
7.2.7	Power	$Z \leftarrow A * B$	94
7.2.8	Logarithm	$Z \leftarrow A \otimes B$	94
7.2.9	Residue	$Z \leftarrow A B$	95
7.2.10	Binomial	$Z \leftarrow A ! B$	96
7.2.11	Circular Functions	$Z \leftarrow A \circ B$	97
7.2.12	And	$Z \leftarrow A \wedge B$	99
7.2.13	Or	$Z \leftarrow A \vee B$	99
7.2.14	Nand	$Z \leftarrow A \nabla B$	100
7.2.15	Nor	$Z \leftarrow A \nabla B$	100
7.2.16	Equal	$Z \leftarrow A = B$	101
7.2.17	Less than	$Z \leftarrow A < B$	103
7.2.18	Less than or equal to	$Z \leftarrow A \leq B$	103
7.2.19	Not equal	$Z \leftarrow A \neq B$	104
7.2.20	Greater than or equal to	$Z \leftarrow A \geq B$	104
7.2.21	Greater than	$Z \leftarrow A > B$	105

8	Structural Primitive Functions		107
8.1	Introduction		107
8.2	Monadic Structural Primitive Functions		107
8.2.1	Ravel	$Z \leftarrow , B$	107
8.2.2	Shape	$Z \leftarrow \rho B$	108
8.2.3	Index Generator	$Z \leftarrow \iota B$	109
8.3	Dyadic Structural Primitive Functions		110
8.3.1	Reshape	$Z \leftarrow A \rho B$	110
8.3.2	Join	$Z \leftarrow A , B$	111
9	Operators		113
9.1	Introduction		113
9.2	Monadic Operators		114
9.2.1	Reduction	$Z \leftarrow f / B$	114
9.2.1	Reduction	$Z \leftarrow f / [K] B$	114
9.2.1	Reduction	$Z \leftarrow f \neq B$	114
9.2.1	Reduction	$Z \leftarrow f \neq [K] B$	114
9.2.2	Scan	$Z \leftarrow f \setminus B$	116
9.2.2	Scan	$Z \leftarrow f \setminus [K] B$	116
9.2.2	Scan	$Z \leftarrow f \setminus B$	116
9.2.2	Scan	$Z \leftarrow f \setminus [K] B$	116
9.3	Dyadic Operators		117
9.3.1	Outer Product	$Z \leftarrow A \circ . f B$	117
9.3.2	Inner Product	$Z \leftarrow A f . g B$	118
10	Mixed Functions		119
10.1	Monadic Mixed Functions		119
10.1.1	Roll	$Z \leftarrow ? B$	119
10.1.2	Grade Up	$Z \leftarrow \Delta B$	121
10.1.3	Grade Down	$Z \leftarrow \Psi B$	122
10.1.4	Reverse	$Z \leftarrow \phi B$	123
10.1.4	Reverse	$Z \leftarrow \ominus B$	123
10.1.4	Reverse	$Z \leftarrow \phi [K] B$	123
10.1.4	Reverse	$Z \leftarrow \ominus [K] B$	123
10.1.5	Monadic Transpose	$Z \leftarrow \mathcal{Q} B$	124
10.1.6	Matrix Inverse	$Z \leftarrow \boxplus B$	125
10.1.7	Execute	$Z \leftarrow \mathcal{E} B$	126
10.2	Dyadic Mixed Functions		127
10.2.1	Join Along an Axis	$Z \leftarrow A , [K] B$	127
10.2.2	Index of	$Z \leftarrow A \iota B$	130
10.2.3	Member of	$Z \leftarrow A \in B$	131
10.2.4	Deal	$Z \leftarrow A ? B$	132
10.2.5	Compress	$Z \leftarrow A / B$	133
10.2.5	Compress	$Z \leftarrow A \neq B$	133
10.2.5	Compress	$Z \leftarrow A / [K] B$	133
10.2.5	Compress	$Z \leftarrow A \neq [K] B$	133
10.2.6	Expand	$Z \leftarrow A \setminus B$	135
10.2.6	Expand	$Z \leftarrow A \setminus B$	135
10.2.6	Expand	$Z \leftarrow A \setminus [K] B$	135
10.2.6	Expand	$Z \leftarrow A \setminus [K] B$	135
10.2.7	Rotate	$Z \leftarrow A \phi B$	137
10.2.7	Rotate	$Z \leftarrow A \ominus B$	137
10.2.7	Rotate	$Z \leftarrow A \phi [K] B$	137
10.2.7	Rotate	$Z \leftarrow A \ominus [K] B$	137
10.2.8	Base Value	$Z \leftarrow A \perp B$	139
10.2.9	Representation	$Z \leftarrow A \tau B$	140
10.2.10	Dyadic Transpose	$Z \leftarrow A \mathcal{Q} B$	142
10.2.11	Take	$Z \leftarrow A \uparrow B$	144
10.2.12	Drop	$Z \leftarrow A \downarrow B$	145
10.2.13	Matrix Divide	$Z \leftarrow A \boxminus B$	146
10.2.14	Indexed Reference	$Z \leftarrow A [I]$	147
10.2.15	Indexed Assignment	$Z \leftarrow V [I] \leftarrow B$	148

11	System Functions		151
11.1	Introduction		151
11.2	Definition		151
11.3	Diagram		151
11.4	Niladic System Functions		152
11.4.1	Time Stamp	Z ← □TS	152
11.4.2	Atomic Vector	Z ← □AV	153
11.4.3	Line Counter	Z ← □LC	153
11.5	Monadic System Functions		154
11.5.1	Delay	Z ← □DL B	154
11.5.2	Name Class	Z ← □NC B	155
11.5.3	Expunge	Z ← □EX B	156
11.5.4	Name List	Z ← □NL B	156
11.5.5	Query Stop	Z ← □STOP B	157
11.5.6	Query Trace	Z ← □TRACE B	157
11.6	Dyadic System Functions		158
11.6.1	Name List	Z ← A □NL B	158
11.6.2	Set Stop	Z ← A □STOP B	158
11.6.3	Set Trace	Z ← A □TRACE B	159
12	System Variables		161
12.1	Definitions		161
12.2	Evaluation Sequences		162
12.2.1	Comparison Tolerance	Z ← □CT ← B	162
12.2.1	Comparison Tolerance	Z ← □CT	162
12.2.2	Random Link	Z ← □RL ← B	163
12.2.2	Random Link	Z ← □RL	163
12.2.3	Print Precision	Z ← □PP ← B	164
12.2.3	Print Precision	Z ← □PP	164
12.2.4	Index Origin	Z ← □IO ← B	165
12.2.4	Index Origin	Z ← □IO	165
12.2.5	Latent Expression	Z ← □LX ← B	166
12.2.5	Latent Expression	Z ← □LX	166
12.2.5	Latent Expression	Z ← □LX[I] ← B	166
13	Defined Functions		167
13.1	Introduction		167
13.2	Definitions		168
13.3	Diagrams		171
13.4	Operations		174
13.4.1	Call-Defined-Function	Z ← DFN	174
13.4.1	Call-Defined-Function	Z ← DFN B	174
13.4.1	Call-Defined-Function	Z ← A DFN B	174
13.4.2	Defined-Function-Control		175
13.4.3	Function Fix	Z ← □FX B	176
13.4.4	Character Representation	Z ← □CR B	177
13.5	Function Editing		178
13.5.1	Evaluate-Function-Definition-Request		178
13.5.2	Evaluate-Editing-Request		180
13.5.3	Diagrams		181
14	Shared Variables		183
14.1	Informal Introduction		183
14.2	Definitions		186
14.3	Diagrams		186
14.4	Operations		186
14.4.1	Primary-Name		186
14.4.2	Surrogate-Name		186
14.4.3	Degree-of-Coupling		186
14.4.4	Access-Control-Vector		186
14.4.5	Offer		187
14.4.6	Retract		188
14.4.7	Shared-Variable-Reset		188

14.5 Shared Variable Forms		189
14.5.1 Shared Variable Reference	$Z \leftarrow SHV$	189
14.5.2 Shared Variable Assignment	$Z \leftarrow SHV \leftarrow B$	189
14.5.3 Shared Variable Indexed Assignment	$Z \leftarrow SHV[I] \leftarrow B$	190
14.6 Shared Variable System Functions		191
14.6.1 Shared Variable Access Control Inquiry	$Z \leftarrow \square SVC B$	191
14.6.2 Shared Variable Query	$Z \leftarrow \square SVQ B$	192
14.6.3 Shared Variable Degree of Coupling	$Z \leftarrow \square SVO B$	193
14.6.4 Shared Variable Offer	$Z \leftarrow A \square SVO B$	194
14.6.5 Shared Variable Retraction	$Z \leftarrow \square SVR B$	195
14.6.6 Shared Variable Access Control Set	$Z \leftarrow A \square SVC B$	196
15 Formatting and Numeric Conversion		197
15.1 Introduction		197
15.2 Numeric Conversion		197
15.2.1 Numeric-Input-Conversion		198
15.2.2 Numeric-Output-Conversion		199
15.3 Diagrams		199
15.4 Operations		203
15.4.1 Monadic Format	$Z \leftarrow \phi B$	203
15.4.2 Dyadic Format	$Z \leftarrow A \phi B$	206
16 Input and Output		209
16.1 Introduction		209
16.2 Definitions		209
16.2.1 User Facilities		209
16.2.2 Implementation Algorithms		210
16.2.3 Prompts		211
16.3 Diagrams		211
16.4 Operations		212
16.4.1 Immediate-Execution		212
16.4.2 Quad Input	$Z \leftarrow \square$	213
16.4.3 Quote Quad Input	$Z \leftarrow \square$	214
16.4.4 Quad Output	$Z \leftarrow \square \leftarrow B$	214
16.4.5 Quote Quad Output	$Z \leftarrow \square \leftarrow B$	215
17 System Commands		217
17.1 Introduction		217
17.2 Definitions		217
17.3 Diagrams		218
17.4 Operations		219
17.4.1 Evaluate-System-Command		219
17.5 Diagrams and Evaluation Sequences		220
Annex A. The APL Character Set for Workspace Interchange		225
Annex B: The Workspace Interchange Convention		233
B.1 Introduction		233
B.1.1 Purpose of the Convention		233
B.1.2 Organisation of the Convention		233
B.2 Level 1 Description		234
B.2.1 Canonical Representation Vectors		234
B.2.2 Representation of Variables		235
B.2.3 Representation of Functions		236
B.2.4 Representation of Executable Expressions		237
B.3 Level 2 Description		238
B.3.1 Multiple Canonical Representation Vectors		238
B.3.2 Workspace Environment		238
B.3.3 Pseudovariables		239
B.3.4 Interchange Convention Identifier		239
B.3.5 Escape		239
B.3.6 Bits		239
B.3.7 Translate		239
B.3.8 Note		240
B.3.9 Workspace Identifier		240
B.3.10 End of the Stream		240

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B.3.11 Inclusion of Nonstandard Material	240
B.3.12 Use of Other Types	241
B.4 Level 3 Description	242
B.4.1 Atoms	242
B.4.2 Registered character sets	242
B.4.3 Escape sequences	242
B.4.4 Registered characters	242
B.4.5 ISO-APL characters	242
B.4.6 Characters	243
B.4.7 The Translate Table	243
B.4.8 Example	244
B.4.9 Escape	244
B.4.10 Bits	244
B.4.11 Translate	244
B.4.12 Example	245
B.4.13 Mapping of Characters to Bits	245
B.4.14 Stage 1 Translation	245
B.4.15 Stage 2 Translation	245
B.4.16 Example	246
B.4.17 Summary	246
B.5 Level 4 Description	247
B.5.1 Physical Media	247
B.5.2 Nine-track Magnetic Tape	247
B.6 Extended Example	248
Bibliography	253
INDEX	255

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Programming languages – APL

0 INTRODUCTION

APL stands for **A Programming Language**. It is a notation invented by K. E. Iverson in the late 1950s for the description of algorithms, and expanded on and made into the programming system *APL\360* by Iverson and his colleagues Adin Falkoff, Larry Breed, Dick Lathwell, and Roger Moore in the mid-1960s.

Throughout this document

- the term “this standard” is understood to mean “this International Standard”;
- the words “chapter”, “section” and “subsection” are understood to mean “clause”, “subclause” and “sub-subclause”, respectively.

1 SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

This standard defines the programming language APL and the environment in which APL programs are executed. Its purpose is to facilitate interchange and promote portability of APL programs and programming skills.

This standard specifies the syntax and semantics of APL programs and the characteristics of the environment in which APL programs are executed.

It also specifies requirements for conformance to this standard, including the publication of values and characteristics of implementation properties so that conforming implementations can be meaningfully compared.

This standard does not specify:

- implementation properties that are likely to vary with the particular equipment or operating system used;

- required values for implementation limits such as APL workspace size or numeric precision;

- the data structures used to represent APL objects;

- the facilities available through shared variables.