

Lecture Notes in Computer Science

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114

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CLU
Reference Manual



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History of CLU

The development of CLU began in January 1974. By the summer of 1975, the first version of the language had been completed. Over the next two years, the entire language design was reviewed and two implementations were produced. Based on this review, and on the experience gained in using CLU, a second version of the language was designed in the fall of 1977. Since then two more implementations have been produced.

A preliminary version of this manual appeared in July 1978. Since that time, an additional statement for exception handling, an own variable mechanism, and three new built-in type generators have been added to the language, and a number of minor changes have been made to the I/O facilities. A second version of the manual appeared in October 1979. Since that time, a few operations have been added to some of the built-in types, and more minor changes have been made to the I/O facilities.

Guide to the Manual

This document serves both as an introduction to CLU and as a language reference manual. Sections 1 through 4 present an overview of the language. These sections highlight the essential features of CLU, and discuss how CLU differs from other, more conventional, languages. Sections 5 through 13 form the reference manual proper. These sections describe each aspect of CLU in detail, and discuss the proper use of various features. Appendices I through III provide concise summaries of CLU's syntax, data types, and I/O facilities. Appendix IV contains example programs.

Those readers wanting an introduction to CLU should read Sections 1 through 13 in order, concentrating on Sections 1 through 4, 8, 9, and 13. Appendix IV should also be of interest. After becoming familiar with CLU, specific questions can be answered by consulting Sections 5 through 13 and Appendices I through III.

We would greatly appreciate receiving comments on both the language and this manual. Comments should be sent to Barbara Liskov, Laboratory for Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 545 Technology Square, Cambridge, MA 02139.

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CONTENTS

Overview

1.	Modules	1
1.1	Procedures	1
1.2	Iterators	1
1.3	Clusters	2
1.4	Parameterized Modules	3
1.5	Program Structure	3
2.	Data Types	5
2.1	Built-in Types	5
2.2	User-Defined Types	7
2.3	Comparison of User-Defined and Built-In Types	7
3.	Semantics	8
3.1	Objects and Variables	8
3.2	Assignment and Invocation	9
3.3	Type-Correctness	11
4.	The Library	13

Detailed Description

5.	Notation	16
6.	Lexical Considerations	17
6.1	Reserved Words	17
6.2	Identifiers	17
6.3	Literals	18
6.4	Operators and Punctuation Symbols	18
6.5	Comments and Other Separators	18
6.6	Semicolons	18

7.	Types, Type Generators, and Type Specifications	19
7.1	Null	19
7.2	Bool	20
7.3	Int	20
7.4	Real	20
7.5	Char	21
7.6	String	21
7.7	Any	22
7.8	Array Types	23
7.9	Sequence Types	24
7.10	Record Types	25
7.11	Structure Types	26
7.12	Oneof Types	27
7.13	Variant Types	28
7.14	Procedure and Iterator Types	28
7.15	Other Type Specifications	29
8.	Scopes, Declarations, and Equates	31
8.1	Scoping Units	31
8.2	Variables	32
8.3	Equate and Constants	34
9.	Assignment and Invocation	37
9.1	Type Inclusion	37
9.2	Assignment	37
9.3	Invocation	39
10.	Expressions	41
10.1	Literals	41
10.2	Variables	41
10.3	Parameters	42
10.4	Equated Identifiers	42
10.5	Procedure and Iterator Names	42
10.6	Procedure Invocations	42
10.7	Selection Operations	43
10.8	Constructors	45
10.9	Prefix and Infix Operators	47
10.10	Cand and Cor	49
10.11	Precedence	49
10.12	Up and Down	50
10.13	Force	50

11.	Statements	52
11.1	Procedure Invocation	52
11.2	Update Statements	53
11.3	Block Statement	54
11.4	Conditional Statement	55
11.5	Loop Statements	55
11.6	Tagcase Statement	57
11.7	Return Statement	58
11.8	Yield Statement	59
12.	Exception Handling and Exits	60
12.1	Signal Statement	60
12.2	Except Statement	61
12.3	Resignal Statement	63
12.4	Exit Statement	64
12.5	Example	65
13.	Modules	68
13.1	Procedures	68
13.2	Iterators	70
13.3	Clusters	71
13.4	Parameterized Modules	80
13.5	Own Variables	88

Appendices

I.	Syntax	91
II.	Built-in Types and Type Generators	98
II.1	Null	99
II.2	Bool	99
II.3	Int	100
II.4	Real	101
II.5	Char	104
II.6	String	105
II.7	Array Types	107
II.8	Sequence Types	111
II.9	Record Types	114
II.10	Structure Types	116
II.11	Oneof Types	117
II.12	Variant Types	119
II.13	Procedure and Iterator Types	120
II.14	Any	121

III.	Input/Output	122
III.1	Files	122
III.2	File Names	123
III.3	A File Type?	125
III.4	Streams	126
III.5	String I/O	131
III.6	Terminal I/O	132
III.7	Scripting	133
III.8	Istreams	134
III.9	Miscellaneous Procedures	136
III.10	Dates	138
IV.	Examples	140
IV.1	Priority Queue Cluster	140
IV.2	Text Formatter	143
IV.3	Text Substitution Program	157
	Index	170