SNOBOL4 Information Bulletin

SNOBOL4 for Personal Computers

The two implementations of SNOBOL4 for the IBM PC announced in the last Bulletin have generated a lot of interest — if letters and telephone calls to the SNOBOL4 Project are any measure.

A third SNOBOL4 implementation for the 8086/8088 family of computers is now available — Catspaw SNOBOL4+, a complete SIL-based implementation that also has a number of useful extensions. A flyer describing its features and giving ordering information is attached to the end of this Bulletin.

Other Implementation News

SPITBOL 370 is now being distributed. This is a high-performance implementation of SNOBOL4 that is tailored to the IBM 370 architecture, including the 43xx and 308x series computers. SPITBOL 370 has many extensions to the standard SNOBOL4 language. See the flyer attached to the end of this Bulletin for more information and ordering instructions.

Work is in progress on a new SIL implementation for the HP 3000. There also are plans for a Macintosh implementation.

SNOBOL4 Users Group?

From time to time there have been attempts to form a SNOBOL4 Users Group, but none has been successful. With increased interest in SNOBOL4, several persons have suggested another attempt to form such a group. If you are interested, let us know. Specific suggestions for the organization and management of such a group, as well as opinions on the services it might provide, are welcome. Address correspondence to:

SNOBOL4 Project
Department of Computer Science
The University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721

Documents Related to SNOBOL4

There are several new documents related to SNOBOL4 that are available, free of charge. Use the document request form at the end of this Bulletin. Brief descriptions of the documents follow.

The list of implementations of SNOBOL4, S4D57, has been updated to include the new PC implementations and to correct a few addresses.

The paper ''Implementing SNOBOL4 Pattern Matching in Icon'' describes how SNOBOL4 pattern matching, with a number of generalizations and extensions, can be implemented using Icon's generators, goal-directed evaluation, and primitive string operations.

Technical Report TR 83-14, *Understanding Pattern Matching — A Cinematic Display of String Scanning*, describes pattern matching in terms of a finite state machine and provides a detailed Icon-based model of the pattern-matching process. A program that displays pattern matching cinematically is included.

This Bulletin is sent on request, free of charge, to persons who are interested in SNOBOL4. We have added a number of persons to our mailing list recently as a result of the PC implementations of SNOBOL4. If you are not on the mailing list, but would like to be added, check the appropriate box on the attached document request form.

The Icon Programming Language

Icon is a high-level programming language with extensive facilities for processing strings and lists. The expression evaluation mechanism of Icon is analogous, in many respects, to the pattern matching process in SNOBOL4. There is an Icon Newsletter, comparable in some respects to the SNOBOL4 Information Bulletin, but containing more technical information. Many persons on the SNOBOL4 mailing list are also on the Icon mailing list. If you are not on the Icon mailing list, but would like to be added, check the appropriate box on the attached document request form.

Ralph E. Griswold

Request for SNOBOL4 Documents

Please send the documents checked below to:

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☐ *Implementations of SNOBOL4*, S4D57g

☐ *Understanding Pattern Matching—A Cinematic Display of String Scanning*, TR 83-14

☐ ''Implementing SNOBOL4 Pattern Matching in Icon'', reprinted from *Computer Languages*

☐ Please add my name to the SNOBOL4 mailing list.

☐ Please add my name to the Icon mailing list.

Return this form to:

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