

## SNOBOL4 Information Bulletin

### Implementation News

Wendell Turner has completed a SIL implementation of SNOBOL4 for the VAX 11/180 running under VMS 2.3. Persons interested in getting copies of this implementation should contact him directly:

Wendell Turner  
TRW/DSSG  
Mail Stop R2/1089  
One Space Park  
Redondo Beach, California 90278

(213)-536-1071

A number of other SIL implementations are underway, including ones for the DG MV8000, the Intel 8086, and the SEL 32-bit machines.

We still get quite a few requests for SIL source material and the SIL implementation for the IBM 360/370. Both are available from us free of charge; S4N25 contains ordering information — see the Document Request Form at the end of this Bulletin.

Viktors Berstis recently discovered an error in the SIL source that prevents arguments from being passed properly to external functions. A correction is given in S4N24b (see the Document Request Form at the end of this Bulletin).

There is development effort underway on Version 3.0 of SPITBOL 360 and on SPITBOL 370. When we have any more news on these implementations, we will issue another Bulletin.

There is a rumor of a new implementation of SNOBOL4 for the VAX 11/780 that will include features to interface the VMS environment.

### SNOBOL4 Library Tape

Dave Couch has been developing a tape of useful SNOBOL4 material. At present, it consists mainly of the programs from Jim Gimpel's book *Algorithms in SNOBOL4* and external functions to interface SPITBOL 360 to the operating system. Dave expects to release this tape in a couple of months. He is open to suggestions on other material to include. If you are interested, contact him:

David deS. Couch  
Hewlett Packard Corporation  
P.O. Box 301  
Loveland, Colorado 80537

(303)-667-5000, ext. 2913

### Applications

Daniel Ferrer at Western Michigan University has developed a library of SNOBOL4 programs for searching library catalog data. He is using FASBOL extensively in this work. Persons interested in such applications should contact him directly:

Daniel Ferrer  
949 Boswell Lane  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

(616)-375-1681

### Clones

One fad about is the development of the shortest possible self-reproducing programs in various programming languages — programs that write out themselves when run. For SNOBOL4, the shortest known such program is

```
S = ' PUNCH = " S = 0" S "0"; PUNCH = REPLACE(S,+"", "0");END'  
PUNCH = " S = '" S "'"; PUNCH = REPLACE(S,+"", "'');END
```

Can anyone suggest a shorter solution?

Viktors Berstis has offered the following alternative approach:

```
PUNCH = REWIND(5) INPUT;END
```

This is certainly shorter, but is more of a 'self-copying' program than a self-reproducing one, and relies on its operating environment to perform the operation. It also depends on the capability to rewind the input file — not possible in some environments.

### SNOBOL4 Project Documents

The response to the offer of SNOBOL4 Project Documents in S4B24 was considerably greater than we had anticipated. Unfortunately, many persons were disappointed, since our stock of most documents was exhausted quickly.

There are, nonetheless, a number of SNOBOL4 Project Documents that are still in print, including updates and revisions of some early documents that still contain useful information. S4D43d, which lists all SNOBOL4 Project Documents, now indicates which documents are still in print (as of August, 1981). If you are interested in any of these documents, get S4D43d first (see the Document Request Form at the end of this Bulletin).

Ralph E. Griswold

### Document Request Form

Please send the documents checked below to:

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- S4D43d Bibliography of Numbered SNOBOL4 Documents
- S4N24b Corrections to Versions 3.10 and 3.11 of the SIL Implementation of SNOBOL4
- S4N25a Distribution of the SIL (Macro) Implementation of SNOBOL4

Return this form to:

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The University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 85721  
USA