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NASA TECH BRIEF

Manned Spacecraft Center

FORTRAN Read Package

The problem:

The lack of a flexible input scheme in many large digital programs becomes a problem to both program users and programmers. Many input schemes require card formats, a fixed card order, or a specific number of cards. These requirements make program usage cumbersome and error prone.

The solution:

A read package has been developed which offers the following advantages. No card format or special order of cards are required. The package is controlled by a small set of parameters which can be changed to account for differences in computers and digital programs.

How it's done:

The parameter location in COMMON is used to identify the parameter. This location number is placed anywhere in the first five columns on the data card. The value of the parameter is placed anywhere on the rest of the card and followed by an asterisk. Sequential locations may be defined on the same card. The read package determines what type of parameter is being defined and automatically differentiates among integer, real, octal, or Hollerith inputs.

Notes:

1. This program is written in FORTRAN IV for use on the CDC-6400 computer. However, with the proper job control language, the program can be run on any computer which uses a FORTRAN IV or higher compiler
2. Inquiries concerning this program should be directed to:

   COSMIC
   112 Barrow Hall
   University of Georgia
   Athens, Georgia 30601
   Reference: MSC-14161

Source: Dennis P. Diekelman of
McDonnell Douglas Corp.
under contract to
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