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Symbol Manipulation Languages (Classic Reprint) (Paperback)

By Paul W Abrahams

Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Symbol Manipulation Languages Symbol manipulation is a branch of computing concerned with the manipulation of unpredictably structured data. Most scientific and business data processing is characterized by the manipulation of data of known length and format. Thus, in the numerical solution of a partial differential equation the representations of the input and output parameters and intermediate results (fixed, floating, double-precision, etc.) are fixed at the time the program for solving the equation is written; the dimensions of the arrays involved are usually also known in advance or at least do not vary during the running of the program. Similarly, in the preparation of a payroll the exact size and layout of the input and output records and intermediate working storage is given and fixed, and in fact may be stated explicitly in forms such as the Data Division of Cobol. A little more generally, the length of a payroll may not be known in advance but may be supplied in the course of the problem; or the size of the array of grid points for...



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