

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**ISO
8807**

First edition
1989-02-15

Information processing systems — Open Systems Interconnection — LOTOS — A formal description technique based on the temporal ordering of observational behaviour

iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW

(standards.iteh.ai)

*Systemes de traitement de l'information — Interconnexion de systemes ouverts —
LOTOS — Technique de description formelle basée sur l'organisation temporelle de
comportement observationnel*

ISO 8807:1989

[https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/6b9bc3b8-855c-4ac8-b832-
35b82f9dd71c/iso-8807-1989](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/6b9bc3b8-855c-4ac8-b832-35b82f9dd71c/iso-8807-1989)



Reference number
ISO 8807 : 1989 (E)

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council. They are approved in accordance with ISO procedures requiring at least 75 % approval by the member bodies voting.

International Standard ISO 8807 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 97, *Information processing systems*.

ISO 8807:1989

Users should note that all International Standards undergo revision from time to time and that any reference made herein to any other International Standard implies its latest edition, unless otherwise stated.

Annex A forms an integral part of this International Standard. Annexes B, C, D and E are for information only.

CONTENTS

	Page
0 Introduction	1
0.1 General	1
0.2 FDTs	1
0.3 The requirement for standard FDTs	1
0.4 The objectives to be satisfied by an FDT	1
0.5 The origin of LOTOS	2
0.6 The structure of this International Standard	2
1 Scope and field of application	3
2 References	3
3 Conformance	3
4 Basic mathematical concepts and notation	5
4.1 General	5
4.2 Sets	5
4.3 Lists	6
4.4 Strings	6
4.5 Relations and functions	6
4.6 Backus-Naur Form	7
4.7 Syntax-directed definitions	8
4.8 Derivation systems	10
5 Model	13
5.1 Introduction	13
5.2 Many-sorted algebras	13
5.3 Labelled transition systems	13
5.4 Structured labelled transition systems	14
6 Formal Syntax	15
6.1 Lexical tokens	15
6.1.1 General	15
6.1.2 Basic characters	15
6.1.3 Reserved symbols	15
6.1.3.1 Word symbols	15
6.1.3.2 Special symbols	17
6.1.4 Identifiers	17
6.1.5 Requirement	18
6.1.6 Comments	18
6.1.7 Token separators	18
6.1.8 Requirement	18
6.2 Specification text	18
6.2.1 specification	18
6.2.2 definition-block	18
6.2.3 data-type-definitions	19
6.2.4 p-expressions	19
6.2.5 sorts, operations and equations	19
6.2.6 process-definitions	20
6.2.7 behaviour-expressions	20
6.2.7.1 general structure	21
6.2.7.2 local-definition-expressions	21
6.2.7.3 sum-expressions	21

ITeH STANDARD PREVIEW

(standards.iteh.ai)

ISO 8807:1989

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/6b9bc3b8-855c-4ac8-b832-35b82f9dd71c/iso-8807-1989>

6.2.7.4	par-expressions	21
6.2.7.5	hiding-expressions	21
6.2.7.6	enable-expressions	21
6.2.7.7	disable-expressions	22
6.2.7.8	parallel-expressions	22
6.2.7.9	choice-expressions	22
6.2.7.10	guarded-expressions	22
6.2.7.11	action-prefix-expressions	22
6.2.7.12	atomic-expressions	22
6.2.8	value-expressions	23
6.2.9	declarations	23
6.2.10	special-identifiers	23
7	Semantics	25
7.1	Introduction	25
7.1.1	Structure of the static semantics definition	25
7.1.2	Structure of the dynamic semantics definition	25
7.1.3	Structure of clause 7	26
7.2	General structures and definitions	26
7.2.1	Names and related functions	26
7.2.2	Algebraic specifications, terms, and equations	27
7.2.2.1	Signature	27
7.2.2.2	Terms	27
7.2.2.3	Equations	27
7.2.2.4	Conditional equations	28
7.2.2.5	Algebraic specifications	28
7.2.3	Canonical specifications	28
7.2.3.1	Introduction	28
7.2.3.2	Behaviour-expression-structure	28
7.2.3.3	Behaviour specification	29
7.2.3.4	Canonical LOTOS specification	29
7.3	Static semantics	29
7.3.1	Introduction	29
7.3.2	General structures and definitions	30
7.3.2.1	Scope	30
7.3.2.2	Extended identifiers	30
7.3.2.3	The interpretation of extended identifiers	31
7.3.2.4	Functionality	32
7.3.2.5	Data-presentation	32
7.3.2.6	Parameterized data-presentation	32
7.3.2.7	Non-overlapping data-presentation	33
7.3.2.8	Signature morphism	33
7.3.2.9	Data-presentation morphism	33
7.3.2.10	Environments	34
7.3.2.11	Standard library	34
7.3.2.12	Complete data-presentation	35
7.3.2.13	Valid dependence order	35
7.3.3	Reconstruction of terms	35
7.3.3.1	Value-atoms	36
7.3.3.2	Value-atom, position, and argument-list of a value-expression	36
7.3.3.3	Operation-assignment	37
7.3.3.4	Consistent operation-assignment	37
7.3.3.5	Explicit sort indication	37
7.3.3.6	Sound operation-assignment	37
7.3.3.7	Generated operation-assignments	37

7.3.3.8	Scopes of an operation-assignment	38
7.3.3.9	Minimal operation-assignment	38
7.3.3.10	Reconstruction of a term	38
7.3.4	Flattening of a LOTOS specification	39
7.3.4.1	Introduction	39
7.3.4.2	Flattening of specification	39
7.3.4.3	Flattening of data-type-definitions	40
7.3.4.4	Flattening of process-definitions	48
7.3.4.5	Flattening of behaviour-expressions	49
7.3.4.6	Flattening of identifiers	55
7.3.5	Functional structure of the flattening function	56
7.4	Semantics of data-presentations	60
7.4.1	General	60
7.4.2	The derivation system of a data-presentation	60
7.4.2.1	Axioms generated by equations	60
7.4.2.2	Inference rules generated by equations	60
7.4.2.3	Generated derivation system	60
7.4.3	Congruence relation induced by a data-presentation	61
7.4.4	Quotient term algebra	61
7.5	Semantics of a canonical LOTOS specification	61
7.5.1	General	61
7.5.2	Auxiliary definitions	61
7.5.2.1	Notation	61
7.5.2.2	Extended behaviour-expressions	62
7.5.2.3	The simplification of sum- and par-expressions	62
7.5.2.4	Substitution	63
7.5.3	Transition derivation system	63
7.5.3.1	General framework	63
7.5.3.2	Axioms of transition	63
7.5.3.3	Inference rules of transition	64
7.5.4	Structured labelled transition system of a behaviour-expression	69
7.5.4.1	Derivatives of a behaviour-expression	69
7.5.4.2	Structured labelled transition system	69
7.5.5	Formal interpretation of a canonical LOTOS specification	70

ANNEXES

A	Standard library of data types	71
A.1	Introduction	71
A.2	Syntax of the data type library	71
A.3	Semantics of the data type library	71
A.4	The Boolean data type	72
A.5	Parameterized data type definitions	73
A.5.1	Element	73
A.5.2	Set	74
A.5.3	Strings	76
A.5.3.1	Non-empty string	76
A.5.3.2	String	78
A.6	Unparameterized data type definitions	79
A.6.1	Natural number	79
A.6.1.1	Abstract definition of natural numbers	79
A.6.1.2	Representations of natural numbers	80
A.6.1.2.1	Hexadecimal representation	80
A.6.1.2.2	Decimal representation	82

A.6.1.2.3	Octal representation	83
A.6.1.2.4	Binary representation	84
A.6.2	Octet	85
A.6.3	Octet string	85
B	Equivalence relations	87
B.1	Introduction	87
B.2	Weak bisimulation	88
B.2.1	Definitions	88
B.2.2	Laws for weak bisimulation congruence	89
B.2.3	Laws for weak bisimulation equivalence	92
B.2.3.1	Notation	92
B.2.3.2	General law	92
B.2.3.3	Rules for $\approx$	92
B.3	Testing equivalence	92
B.3.1	Definitions	92
B.3.2	Laws for testing congruence	93
B.3.3	Laws for testing equivalence	93
B.4	References	94
C	A tutorial on LOTOS	95
C.1	The specification of processes	95
C.2	Behaviour expressions in basic LOTOS	96
C.2.1	A basic process: inaction	96
C.2.2	Two basic operators	96
C.2.2.1	Action prefix	96
C.2.2.2	Choice	96
C.2.2.3	Processes as trees	97
C.2.3	Recursion	98
C.2.4	Parallelism	99
C.2.4.1	Parallelism of independent processes	99
C.2.4.2	Parallelism of dependent processes	99
C.2.4.3	The general parallel operator	100
C.2.4.4	The hiding operator	101
C.2.4.5	Reasons for the hiding operator	102
C.2.5	Nondeterminism in LOTOS	103
C.2.6	Sequential composition of processes	104
C.2.7	Disruption of processes	105
C.2.8	An example in basic LOTOS	106
C.3	LOTOS data types	107
C.3.1	Introduction	107
C.3.1.1	Basic concepts	107
C.3.1.2	Abstract Data Types versus Concrete Data Types	107
C.3.2	Concepts of LOTOS data types	108
C.3.2.1	The signature	108
C.3.2.2	Terms and equations	108
C.3.2.3	The combination	110
C.3.2.4	The parameterization	111
C.3.2.5	Renaming	113
C.3.2.6	Library invocation	114
C.4	LOTOS with structured interactions	114
C.4.1	Structured event offers	114
C.4.1.1	Value declarations	114
C.4.1.2	Variable declarations	115
C.4.1.3	Types of interaction	115
C.4.2	Conditional constructs	116
C.4.2.1	Selection predicates	116

STANDARD PREVIEW
(standards.itech.ai)

C.4.2.2	Guarded expressions	117
C.4.3	Process abstraction with parameterization	117
C.4.4	Generalized choice and parallel expressions	118
C.4.5	Generalized sequential composition	119
C.4.5.1	Successful termination and functionality	120
C.4.5.2	Functionality of LOTOS behaviour expressions	120
C.4.5.3	Process abstraction and functionality	121
C.4.5.4	Sequential composition with value passing	122
C.4.5.5	Local variable definition	122
C.4.6	Another example in LOTOS	122
C.5	LOTOS syntax table	123
D	Syntax diagrams	127
E	Informal basis for abstract data types	135
E.1	Introduction	136
E.1.1	Representations	136
E.2	Signatures	138
E.3	Terms and expressions	139
E.3.1	Generation of terms	139
E.4	Values and algebras	140
E.4.1	Equations and quatification	141
E.5	Algebraic specification and semantics	141
E.6	Representation of values	142

iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW (standards.iteh.ai)

TABLES

1	Metalanguage symbols	8
2	Actualization function	43
3	Functional structure of flattening function	56
4	Interaction types	116
5	LOTOS syntax table	123

FIGURES

1	Structure of clause 7	26
2	Two interacting processes	95
3	Full duplex buffer	96
4	Composition of two buffer processes	100
5	Hiding	101

iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW

(standards.iteh.ai)

This page intentionally left blank

ISO 8807:1989

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/6b9bc3b8-855c-4ac8-b832-35b82f9dd71c/iso-8807-1989>

Information processing systems — Open Systems Interconnection — LOTOS — A formal description technique based on the temporal ordering of observational behaviour

0 Introduction

0.1 General

Formal description techniques (FDTs) are methods of defining the behaviour of an (information processing) system in a language with a formal syntax and semantics, instead of a natural language such as English. In the following sub-clauses of this introduction, the importance of FDTs and their standardization is discussed. The objectives that an FDT must satisfy are considered. The origin of LOTOS is discussed. Finally the structure of this document is explained.

[ISO 8807:1989](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/6b9bc3b8-855c-4ac8-b832-35b82f9dd71c/iso-8807-1989)

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/6b9bc3b8-855c-4ac8-b832-35b82f9dd71c/iso-8807-1989>

0.2 FDTs

Formal description techniques are important tools for the design, analysis and specification of information processing systems. It is by means of formal techniques that system descriptions can be produced that are *complete, consistent, concise, unambiguous* and *precise*. This is only possible if an FDT is self-contained, so that the descriptions given in an FDT need not refer to any informal knowledge of the system that is described. An important aspect of a formal system is that it allows analysis by mathematical methods. An FDT that has such a formal, mathematical basis can be used to prove the correctness of specifications.

0.3 The requirement for standard FDTs

If an FDT is defined in an International Standard, the description is available to all who require it. The Directives for the production of such a standard require a high degree of international acceptance and technical stability. Any amendment also requires international agreement. Hence a standard FDT offers the most useful form of presentation to those who wish to apply it.

0.4 The objectives to be satisfied by an FDT

Although this document describes an FDT that is generally applicable to distributed, concurrent information processing systems, it has been developed particularly for OSI. The main objectives to be satisfied by such an FDT are that it should be

- a) *expressive*: an FDT should be able to define both the protocol specifications and the service definitions of the seven layers of OSI described in ISO 7498.
- b) *well-defined*: an FDT should have a formal mathematical model that is suitable for the analysis of these specifications and definitions. The same model should support the checking of conformance of implementations that are permitted by the OSI International Standards. This model should also support the testing of an implementation for conformance.
- c) *well-structured*: an FDT should offer means for structuring the description of a specification or definition in manner that is meaningful and intuitively pleasing. A good structure increases the readability, understandability, flexibility, and maintainability of system descriptions, and offers a better framework for their analysis.
- d) *abstract*: there are two aspects of abstraction that an FDT should offer:
 - 1) an FDT should be completely independent of methods of implementation, so that the technique itself does not provide any undue constraints on implementors
 - 2) an FDT should offer the means of abstraction from irrelevant details with respect to the context at any point in a description. Abstraction can reduce the local complexity of system descriptions considerably. In the presence of a good structure, abstraction can help even further to reduce the complexity of descriptions.

0.5 The origin of LOTOS

LOTOS (Language of Temporal Ordering Specification) was developed by FDT experts from ISO/TC97 during the years 1981-1988. The basic idea that LOTOS developed from was that systems can be described by defining the temporal relation between events in the externally observable behaviour of a system. LOTOS has two components. The first component deals with the description of process behaviours and interactions, and is based on a modification of the Calculus of Communicating Systems (CCS), which was developed at the University of Edinburgh. The modification includes elements that were introduced in other calculi, which are related to CCS, viz. CSP and CIRCAL. Among the other theories that are related to CCS, and thus to LOTOS, are SCCS, MEIJE and ACP. CCS, and the related formal systems, provide a powerful analytical theory for concurrent processes.

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/6b9bc3b8-855c-4ac8-b832-3082pac71c30-880-1989>

The second component deals with the description of data structures and value expressions and is based on the abstract data type language ACT ONE. ACT ONE was developed at the Technical University of Berlin. The part of LOTOS dealing with the description of processes, i.e. dynamic behaviours, is not dependent upon ACT ONE. Many well-defined languages for the description of data structures could, in principle, be used in combination with the process definition facilities of LOTOS.

0.6 The structure of this International Standard

This document differs in contents from most International Standards. The importance of a formal, mathematical basis of an FDT (see clauses 0.2 and 0.4 b)) makes the inclusion of mathematical material in this definition necessary. Clause 4 introduces some fundamental mathematical concepts and notations that are used in the rest of the document. Clause 5 presents the fundamental mathematical structures that provide a semantic basis for LOTOS data types, behaviour expressions, and their combination. Clause 6 presents the syntax of the language and contains, together with 7.3, the rules for producing syntactically correct specifications; this part of the document requires knowledge of only basic mathematical concepts. Clause 7 presents the semantics of a LOTOS specification, based on the semantics of data types and behaviour expressions. Annex A contains the standard library of LOTOS data types and forms a part of this International Standard. The other annexes provide more information related to LOTOS, but do not form a part of the standard. In particular, annex C contains a *tutorial* on LOTOS, which is meant to provide a guide to the features of the language, and a convenient introduction to this standard for the non-technical reader.

1 Scope and field of application

This International Standard defines the syntax and semantics of the Formal Description Technique LOTOS. LOTOS is in general used for the formal description of distributed, concurrent information processing systems. In particular LOTOS can be used to describe formally the service definitions and protocol specifications of the layers of Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) architecture described in ISO 7498, and related standards, and conformance tests for implementations of OSI protocols and/or OSI functions. It can also be applied for the formal description of other distributed systems, such as telephone switching networks.

2 References

ISO 7498, *Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Basic Reference Model*.

CCITT Recommendation Z.100, *SDL*.

3 Conformance

A formal specification written in LOTOS conforms to the requirements of this International Standard if and only if it is derivable according to the syntactic rules defined in clause 6, and unambiguously defines a behaviour according to the semantics defined in clause 7.

ISO 8807:1989
<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/6b9bc3b8-855c-4ac8-b832-35b82f9dd71c/iso-8807-1989>

iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW (standards.iteh.ai)

This page intentionally left blank

ISO 8807:1989

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/6b9bc3b8-855c-4ac8-b832-35b82f9dd71c/iso-8807-1989>

4 Basic mathematical concepts and notation

This clause contains a list of basic mathematical concepts and related notations used in clauses 5, 6, and 7.

4.1 General

=df	is defined as.
iff	if and only if, i.e. double implication.

4.2 Sets

$\{a, b, c, \dots\}$	the <i>set</i> made up of elements $a, b, c, \dots$. The order in which the elements are listed is immaterial.
$\emptyset$	the <i>empty set</i> , i.e. the set having no elements.
$x \in A$	x is an <i>element</i> of the set A .
$x \notin A$	x is <i>not</i> an <i>element</i> of the set A .
$A \subseteq B$	A is a <i>subset</i> of B , i.e. all elements of A are also elements of B .
$A \cup B$	the <i>union</i> of A and B , i.e. the set which contains only all elements of A and all elements of B .
$\bigcup A$	the <i>union</i> of A , i.e. the set which contains only all elements of the elements of A (A must therefore be a set of sets).
$A \cap B$	the <i>intersection</i> of A and B , i.e. the set which contains only all elements of A which are also elements of B . sets A and B are <i>disjoint</i> iff $A \cap B = \emptyset$.
$A - B$	the <i>difference</i> of A and B , i.e. the set which contains only all elements of A which are not also elements of B .
$A \times B$	the <i>Cartesian product</i> of A with B , i.e. the set of all ordered pairs $\langle a, b \rangle$, such that $a \in A$ and $b \in B$.
$A_1 \times A_2 \times \dots \times A_n$	the <i>generalized Cartesian product</i> of $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$, i.e. the set of ordered n -tuples $\langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \rangle$ (see 4.3), such that $a_1 \in A_1$, $a_2 \in A_2$, ..., $a_n \in A_n$.
$\{x \in A \mid Q(x)\}$	the set which contains only all those elements of A which satisfy property Q (the abbreviation $\{x \mid Q(x)\}$ is used where set A may be deduced from the context).

4.3 Lists

$a_1, \dots, a_n$, or $\langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle$

the finite list (or sequence, or (n) -tuple) made up of the *elements*, or *components* $a_1, \dots, a_n$. Unlike sets, lists may contain more than one instance of the same element, since elements are distinguished by their position in the ordering of the list;

an *ordered pair* is a list of two elements (e.g. $\langle a, b \rangle$);

the *empty* list has no elements and is denoted by $\langle \rangle$.

a *record* is an n -tuple of which each element is *labelled* with a unique label. If *lab* is the label of element x of record y then $y.lab$ denotes x .

$\langle a_1, \dots, a_n \rangle \cup \langle b_1, \dots, b_n \rangle$

the componentwise union of lists, defined as:

$\langle a_1 \cup b_1, \dots, a_n \cup b_n \rangle$ ($a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n$ must therefore be sets or, again lists).

$\bigcup A$

The *union* (of the lists in) A , i.e. the componentwise union of only all elements of A (A must therefore be a set of n -tuples for a fixed n).

A^n

the set of all n -tuples with elements in A for fixed n .

A^*

is equivalent with $\bigcup \{A^n \mid n \in \mathbf{N}\}$, where $\mathbf{N}$ is the set of natural numbers.

iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW
(standards.iteh.ai)

ISO 8807:1989

4.4 Strings

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/6b9bc3b8-855c-4ac8-b832-35b82f9dd71c/iso-8807-1989>

$a_1 \dots a_n$

the *string* made up of the elements $a_1, \dots, a_n$. A string is formed by the juxtaposition of its elements.

$s.t$

the *concatenation* of the strings s and t . The concatenation is the string that consists of the elements of s followed by those of t in the same order.

A^*

the set of all finite strings consisting of elements in the set A . This also includes the *empty string* ϵ , that has no elements.

$s \mid A$

the *restriction* of a string s to a set A is the string that consists of only all elements of s that are in A , in the order of their occurrence in s .

4.5 Relations and functions

$R \subseteq A \times B$

R is a *binary relation* between A and B , i.e. a set of elements of $A \times B$;

the *domain* of R is defined as $\{a \in A \mid \text{there exists some } b \in B \text{ such that } \langle a, b \rangle \in R\}$;

the *range* of R is defined as $\{b \in B \mid \text{there exists some } a \in A \text{ such that } \langle a, b \rangle \in R\}$;

if R is a binary relation between A and B , and S is a binary relation between B and C , their *composition* $R.S$ is the binary relation between A and C containing all and, only the pairs $\langle a, c \rangle$ such that there exists some $b \in B$ with $\langle a, b \rangle \in R$ and $\langle b, c \rangle \in S$.

$f : A \rightarrow B$

f is a (*partial*) *function* from A to B , i.e. f is a binary relation between A and B such that for each $a \in A$, there exists at most one $b \in B$ such that $\langle a, b \rangle \in f$;

if $\langle a, b \rangle \in f$ then f is *defined* for a , and one may write $f(a) = b$;

the function f is *total* iff it is defined for all $a \in A$;

function composition is a special case of composition of binary relations, viz. when both relations are functions;

a function $f : A \rightarrow B$ is *injective* iff, for all a_1, a_2 in the domain of f , $f(a_1) = f(a_2)$ implies that $a_1 = a_2$;

the *inverse function*, $f^{-1} : B \rightarrow A$, of an injective function is defined as follows: for $b \in B$, if there exists an $a \in A$ such that $f(a) = b$, then $f^{-1}(b) = a$, otherwise f^{-1} is not defined; in symbols:
 $f^{-1} : B \rightarrow A =_{df} \{ \langle b, a \rangle \mid f(a) = b \}$;

a function $f : A \rightarrow B$ is *one-to-one* iff it is injective and its inverse function is total.

4.6 Backus-Naur Form

ISO 8807:1989

The metalanguage used in this International Standard to specify the syntax of LOTOS is based on Backus-Naur Form (BNF). A BNF-like description of a language L is given by a set of *productions*, or *rewrite rules*. The meta-symbols used to compose rewrite rules are listed in table 1.

A *terminal (symbol)* is a symbol that appears literally in L . A *nonterminal (symbol)* is a symbol that denotes a syntax construct of L (which is ultimately represented by a string of terminal symbols).

A rewrite rule has the format:

nonterminal-symbol = meta-expression .

where the meta-expression is an expression constructed using terminal and nonterminal symbols, and the operators listed in table 1. A meta-expression contains at least one terminal or non-terminal symbol. Adjacent terminal and/or nonterminal symbols occurring in a meta-expression denote the concatenation of the text they ultimately represent. The nature of this concatenation is subject to the rules given in 6.1.

A meta-expression denotes, depending on the operators used in it, a set S of terminal/nonterminal sequences. A rewrite rule is interpreted as follows: the nonterminal symbol at the left-hand side can be replaced by any one of the sequences of S .

All operators (implicit concatenation included) have precedence over the alternative operator.