
Pattern variables in Forth

Martin J. Tracy, FORTH, INC.

Lists are an effective way of maintaining and manipulating facts and information in readable form. Pattern variables can be used to recover information from lists given a partial pattern or "key." When one structure is matched against another structure identical in form, the pattern variables in the first structure are set or "instantiated" to the corresponding values in the second structure.

This paper is a continuation of a paper on "list-handling" in Forth which was presented at the FORML conference in November, 1985. The list handler is reviewed here and then extended to include pattern variables.