

# AAPIIL

**IN PRACTICE**

**WHAT YOU NEED  
TO KNOW TO  
INSTALL AND USE**

**SUCCESSFUL  
APL SYSTEMS  
AND MAJOR  
APPLICATIONS**

EDITED BY

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In the early part of the computer era, the cost of the computer itself overshadowed all other costs associated with computing. Over the years, however, engineering advances (in particular the integrated circuit) have steadily chipped away at the cost of computing hardware, and it is no longer the dominant component of computing costs. Labor costs, particularly systems and programming, are the largest component of computing activity today. This situation has encouraged many researchers to augment the features and usage conventions of traditional computing languages to squeeze more efficiency from them.

**APL IN PRACTICE** deals neither with new approaches nor with facelifts of proven concepts. Rather, it reports the state of APL, a method of interactive computing introduced in the 1960s. APL is one of the most concise, consistent, and powerful programming languages ever devised. The simplification and efficiency offered by its rich and powerful handling of work involving multiple data structures have saved a great deal of time and money for the organizations that have used it. Its proven benefits, however, have been largely obscured in the literature by the many incremental improvements made to more traditional languages.

This book offers some compelling arguments for considering APL for business computing. It also serves as a handbook for those who know APL's advantages, but need help in preparing to use APL for a wide range of applications. **APL IN PRACTICE** offers the collective experience of over fifty proven APL practitioners from virtually every area of practical APL usage.

Three goals dominated the selection and editing of topics in the book:

- To provide general management with sufficient knowledge of APL to cut through the mystique that surrounds the data processing profession.
- To aid data processing managers and working professionals in bridging the gap between their familiar turf and new fields that are easily mastered with APL.
- To broaden the horizons of convinced APL users so that they can better relate to the real problems of general management and data processors.

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To these ends, the editors have approached the full range of computer-related tasks required of modern business. Included here are innovative applications of APL to applications as diverse as financial planning, marketing management, general ledger, budgeting, manufacturing, and electronic mail. Attention is also given to the special interests of systems management and professional programmers—formatting and reporting, writing maintainable programs, and managing outside computer services.

While intended to encourage adoption of APL solutions to business problems, the depth and diversity of these contributions will also give general management and systems management a clear picture of both the possibilities and limitations of APL for solving their data processing requirements.

#### ABOUT THE EDITORS

**ALLEN J. ROSE** is Vice President & Technical Director for STSC, Inc. Prior to assuming his current responsibilities, Mr. Rose was the APL Program Administrator for IBM Corporation. He has also worked as an industrial statistician for Procter and Gamble. Mr. Rose received his B.A. in Psychology from Duke University. He is the co-author of *APL: An Interactive Approach* (Wiley 1976).

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