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Identification

PL/I String Operations  
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Purpose

PL/I operations on strings will be performed either directly by the compiled code or through calls to the procedures described here, according to the whim of the compiler. [ EPL compiles most string operations in-line when all strings involved are of known length and 36 bits long or less. One can imagine PL/I being considerably cleverer, in particular performing all important operations on non-varying strings directly in the compiled code. - D.B.W.]

Each of the procedures described here can take either varying or non-varying strings as arguments. The details of how the procedures distinguish varying strings from non-varying strings, and what they do with varying - string answers, are given in Implementation, below.

Usage

The possible calls are listed below with approximately equivalent PL/I statements indicating their effect. B1, b2, b3 are bit strings, varying or non-varying. The other variables mentioned are declared:

```
    dcl answer bit(1), n fixed bin (24);
```

It will be noted that all of these procedures are entries into the one segment stgop\_. Stgop\_ does not itself perform the operation but "dispatches" any call to the appropriate procedure to do the actual work.

```
    call stgop_$bsbs_(b1,b2);
```

```
        b2=b1;
```

```
    call stgop_$cscs_(c1,c2);
```

```
        c2=c1;
```

```
    call stgop_$ctbs_(b1,b2,b3);
```

```
        b3=b1 || b2;
```

```
    call stgop_$ctcs_(c1,c2,c3);
```

```
        c3=c1 || c2;
```

```
call stgop_$ixbs_(b1,b2,n);
      n=index(b1,b2);
call stgop_$ixcs_(c1,c2,n);
      n=index(c1,c2);

call stgop_$ntbs_(b1,b2);
      b2=¬ b1;

call stgop_$ndbs_(b1,b2,b3);
      b3=b1&b2;

call stgop_$orbs_(b1,b2,b3);
      b3=b1 |b2;

call stgop_$eqbs_(b1,b2,answer);
      answer=(b1=b2);
call stgop_$eqcs_(c1,c2,answer);
      answer=(c1=c2);

call stgop_$nebs_(b1,b2,answer);
      answer=(b1¬ =b2);
call stgop_$necs_(c1,c2,answer);
      answer=(c1¬ =c2);

call stgop_$lebs_(b1,b2,answer);
      answer=(b1< =b2);
call stgop_$lecs_(c1,c2,answer);
      answer=(c1< =c2);
```

```
call stgop_$gebs_(b1,b2,answer);
    answer=(b1>=b2);
call stgop_$gecs_(c1,c2,answer);
    answer=(c1>=c2);

call stgop_$ltbs_(b1,b2,answer);
    answer=(b1<b2);
call stgop_$ltcs_(c1,c2,answer);
    answer=(c1<c2);

call stgop_$gtbs_(b1,b2,answer);
    answer=(b1>b2);
call stgop_$gtcs_(c1,c2,answer);
    answer=(c1>c2);
```

There are a number of places where it may be useful to call these procedures directly from a PL/I program: for example in the File System modules which may not use varying strings (because of the danger of embarrassing segment faults), using direct calls rather than assignment statements to perform string operations will prevent the compiler from creating varying-string temporaries. The compiler may be clever enough to avoid these unnecessary temporaries, but it is probably not advisable to count on this.

#### Implementation

See BP.2.01 for the representation of strings. There are three possible identity codes in the dope for a string:

200(8) non-varying, aligned

240(8) non-varying, packed

202(8) varying

Thus the procedures can easily work with any kind of string passed to them.

If the result of an operation is varying, so that its current value is kept in a free storage area, the procedure must allocate sufficient storage for the new value, perform the operation, and then free the storage associated with the old value. (Allocating and freeing is done using the procedures described in BP.4.02.) The reason for the insistence upon not freeing the old value until the new value has been calculated is that otherwise the compiler would have to make a special case out of such a statement as

```
a=a;
```

where a is a varying string.

There is still a problem with a statement like

```
a=b||a;
```

where a is non-varying. This statement cannot be implemented through the call

```
call stgop_$ctcs_(b,a,a);
```

as one might expect, since ctcs\_ will "clobber" a while it still needs its value. The only way the concatenation procedure could be sure of avoiding this problem would be to place its result into a temporary in the stack, then move this to the result string. It was apparently felt that this would be too inefficient for the general case. Therefore whenever a non-varying string variable is being assigned the value of an expression involving itself, a temporary must be used. [EPL, of course, always produces a temporary. One hopes the PL/I compiler can be cleverer.]