APPENDIX 6. Syntax Charts

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The following charts show exactly which sequences of symbols from a legal ALGOL 68 particular-program and which do not. To see what you may legally write, start where it says "particular-program" in the first chart below, and follow the line. Where the line diverges, you have a choice. You may either write an "ENCLOSED-clause", or you may write a "label" followed by a ":". If you write a label, then you get back where you started so, following the same lines again, you may now write an "ENCLOSED-clause" or you may go for another label. Eventually, you must write an ENCLOSED-clause in order to reach the outgoing arrow on the right, which signifies that your particularprogram is complete.

In order to write any construct enclosed in a rectangle (such as an "ENCLOSED-clause"), you must find the start of that construct (usually on another chart) and follow the line from there, writing such constructs as you meet on the way, until you escape via an outgoing arrow. Then you have completed the construct in question and may continue following lines in the original chart. If you encounter a circle (or an oval), simply write the symbol inside it. So, to write an ENCLOSED-clause, find the start on the ENCLOSED-clauses chart. Immediately you are faced with a choice. Suppose you follow the route marked "closed-clause" (which is on yet another chart). When your serial-clause is complete, you write "end" or "/", whereupon you reach the outgoing arrow and your ENCLOSED-clause is complete. Although the chart does not show it (it would have been just too complicated), if you write "begin" (rather than "/") before the serial-clause, then you must write "end" (rather than "/") after it, and vice-versa.

Every construct written inside a rectangle will thus be found as an entry point somewhere in one of the charts. The only exceptions are some very simple ones such as "label", "defining-identifier", "field-selector", "mode-indication", "operator", "character" and "digit". The first three of these are the same as "applied-identifier" (on the units chart). For mode-indications and operators see 1.3.2 and 4.3.

Above some of the rectangles there appears an indication of the mode that the construct inside is expected to yield, and the strength of its context (5.1.0.2) or whether it may be balanced (5.2.0.1). The mode written underneath an outgoing arrow tells you the mode of the construct you have just written. "MOID" stands for any mode including **void**, and "MODE" for any

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mode other than void. On any one pass through a particular chart, the MODEs etc. encountered must, however, always stand for the same mode.

Generally speaking in ALGOL 68, comments and pragmats (1.3.2) may appear in between any two symbols, but there are some exceptions – notably in identifiers, denotations and format-texts. In these charts, you may insert a comment or a pragmat anywhere where you are following a continuous line, but if your route between two symbols is entirely over dotted lines, then you may not write comments or pragmats although blanks and newlines are still permitted (but see 5.5.1.1 for the dangers of doing this in string-denotations and see Appendix 5 for a commonly used solution to the problem).

In "collection-lists" in the format-texts chart, an indication is given of the modes in the data list of *getf* and *putf* which are compatible with the various patterns. For example, the chart shows that for a real-pattern the mode in the data list on output may be **int** or **real**, but than on input it may only be **ref** real. See 7.6.1.3 for further details on this point.



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