

# J Object Dictionary

A CODE, TEST AND DOCUMENTATION DATABASE SYSTEM FOR J

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## 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 What is JOD?

JOD is a code, test and documentation database Addon for the J programming language. JOD has been programmed entirely in  $J^1$  and can be quickly ported to any system that supports J.

### **1.2** Why JOD?

Programming in J has a charming and distinctive flavor. Tasks decompose into scores of tiny programs that are called *words*. JOD stores and organizes J words and other objects in a dictionary database: hence the name **J** Object Dictionary.

Code databases are not new. Similar systems have been developed for many programming environments. Storing code in a database might strike you as obtuse. Why compromise the ease, portability, and broad support of standard source code files? Believe me, there are good reasons.

- J encourages brevity: microscopic programs, words, accumulate rapidly. Short J words are often general purpose words. They can be used in many contexts. How are scores of terse words best employed? Scattering them in many scripts leads to error prone copy-and-pasting or over-inclusion.<sup>2</sup> The best way to reuse short words is to put them in a system like JOD and fetch as required.
- With JOD there is only *one definition* for a given word. When word copies are found in many files it's not always easy to find the current version.
- With JOD there are no significant limits on vocabulary size. Scripts *can* hold thousands of words but it's a nuisance to maintain and include such large files.
- The *complete definition* of a word can be quickly examined. Good English dictionaries contain far more than definitions. There are etymologies, synonyms, usage comments and illustrations. Similarly, *literate* software documentation contains far more than source code. You will find descriptions of basic algorithms, remarks about coding techniques, references to published material, program test suites, detailed error logs and germane diagrams. Storing such material in source code would horribly clutter programs. A dictionary is where this material belongs.
- *Relationships between words* can be stored. Accurate word references make it easier to understand code. This is especially true if references and documentation are linked.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>JOD makes few OS calls to move files and generate GUIDs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>I am not a fan of *rampant over-inclusion*. Over-inclusion occurs when you load an entire class and only use a tiny portion of it. Unused code is not harmless. It always confuses programmers.

• JOD facilitates the *generation of scripts and the distribution* of code. When I program with JOD I rarely write entire load scripts. I use JOD to generate and distribute J scripts. JOD can fetch and execute arbitrary J scripts so you can manage very elaborate generation and distribution procedures.

# 2 Installing and Configuring JOD

Before using JOD you need to install the current Windows version of J. J can be downloaded from www.jsoftware.com.

JOD can be installed in two ways.

- 1. Use JAL, J's package manager, to download JOD. *Using JAL is the easiest way to install and maintain JOD*.
- 2. Download the current JOD distribution from *The JOD Pages* and unzip, preserving directories, to the relative directory<sup>3</sup> ~addons\general\jod

After installation JOD can be loaded with:

```
load 'general/jod'
```

To configure and maintain JOD you must be aware of the following:

- 1. JOD uses the J startup file ~config\startup.ijs to store load scripts: see mls on page 35. Exercise caution when manually editing JOD's load script section.
- 2. To run all JOD labs you must download and install the jodsource addon. jodsource can be installed with JAL.
- 3. JOD labs and test scripts assume some J folders have been configured. Open J's configuration dialog, see Figure 1 on page 5, and define folders like:

```
JOD c:\joddictionaries\602

JODSOURCE c:\jodtest\labtesting

JODPROJECT c:\joddictionaries\602\joddev

JODTEST c:\jodtest\test
```

*Use fully qualified directory paths that are not in the J install tree.* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Paths that begin with the ~ character are relative directories. The full path can be obtained with jpath verb.

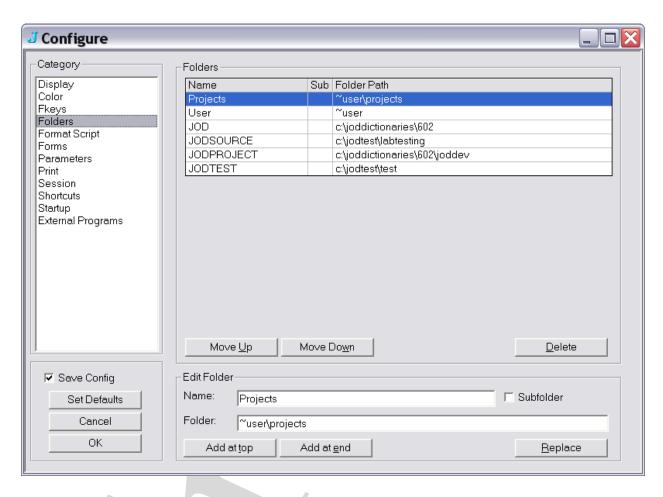


Figure 1: The following folder configuration is recommended for running all JOD labs and test scripts. When defining JOD folders the full path, including the drive letter, must be used. The J configure utility does not reliably handle relative paths for directories outside of J's install tree.

# 3 Quick Tutorial

The best way to get started with JOD is to work through the lab *JOD* (1) *Introduction*.<sup>4</sup> JOD labs are listed in the General category: see Figure 2 on page 6. This tutorial uses lab material; work through the JOD labs after reading this section.

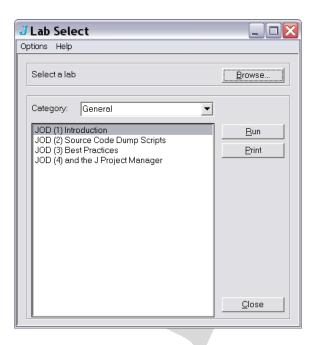


Figure 2: JOD Labs are installed in the General category.

**Start JOD.** After installation JOD can be started from a J session with:

```
require 'general/jod' NB. start JOD
```

Create dictionaries. To use JOD you must create some dictionaries with newd: see page 36. JOD words, with a few exceptions, return boxed list results. The first item is a return code where 1 indicates success and 0 means failure.

```
newd 'lab';'c:\jodtut\lab' NB. create (lab)
+-+-----+
|1|dictionary created ->|lab|c:\jodtut\lab\|
+-+----+
newd 'labdev';'c:\jodtut\labdev' NB. create (labdev)
```

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The number "(n)" in JOD lab titles is a suggested order.

**Open dictionaries.** To use a dictionary it most be open. Open dictionaries with od: see page 38.

```
od 'labdev' NB. open read/write
+-+------
|1|opened (rw) ->|labdev|
+-+------
2 od 'lab' NB. open read/only
+-+-----+
|1|opened (ro) ->|lab|
+-+-----+
```

**Show open dictionaries.** Open dictionaries define a reference path, see appendix C on page 58. did, see page 18, displays information about open dictionaries.

```
did 0 NB. show open dictionary path
+-+---+
|1|labdev|lab|
+-+----+
```

Create some words to store. You can store all types of J words in JOD dictionaries.

```
NB. create some words in the base locale
random=: ?10 10$100 NB. numeric noun
text=: 'this is a test of the one pure thing'
floats=: 2 + % 100#100
symbols=: s: ' once more with feeling'
boxed=: <"1 i. 2 3
rationals=: 100 + % (>:i. 10x) ^ 50
unicode=: u: 'this is now unicode'
each=: &.> NB. tacit adverb

explicit=: 4 : 0
NB. explicit verb
x +. y
)

NB. list of defined words
words=: ;:'random text floats symbols'
```

```
words=: words, ;:'boxed rationals unicode each explicit'
```

**Store words in put dictionary.** The first dictionary on the path is the only dictionary that can be updated. Most updates are put operations so the first dictionary is called the *put dictionary*: see put on page 40.

Retrieve words from dictionaries. get, see page 25, fetches words from dictionaries.

Make a group. Dictionary words can be grouped: see grp page 29.

```
grp 'tutgroup'; words
+-+----+
|1|group <tutgroup> put in ->|labdev|
+-+-----+
```

Make a load script from a group. Load scripts are J scripts that can be loaded with the standard load utility. Standard J load scripts are defined in the scripts.ijs file. This file is reset by JAL updates so JOD load scripts are stored in the users startup.ijs file: see appendix E on page 61.

```
mls 'tutgroup'
+-+------+
|1|load script saved ->|c:\jodtut\labdev\script\tutgroup.ijs|
+-+-----+
NB. load with standard utility
load 'tutgroup'
```

**Backup the put dictionary.** You're either backed up or f'ed up—there are no other options! JOD makes backups easy: see packd on page 39.

**Dump dictionaries on path.** make, see page 34, can dump all open dictionaries as a single dump script.

This brief tutorial has just tickled JOD's surface. Work through the JOD labs to learn more.

## 4 Best Practices

Here are some JOD practices I have found useful. A JOD lab, *JOD* (3) *Best Practices*, elaborates and reiterates this material. After reading these notes I recommend you run this lab. JOD labs are found in the General lab category.

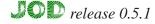
**JOD** does not belong in the J tree. Never store your JOD dictionaries in J install directories! Create a JOD master dictionary directory root that is independent of J: see newd on page 36. It's also a good idea to define a subdirectory structure that mirrors J's versions.

```
NB. create a master JOD directory root outside of J's directories. newd 'bptest';'c:\jodlabs\602\bptest';'best practices dictionary'
```

**Backup backup and then backup.** It is a snap to make a backup with JOD so backup often: see packd and restd on pages 39 and 43.

```
NB. open the best practice dictionary od 'bptest' [ 3 od ''

NB. back it up packd 'bptest'
```



**Take a script dump.** It's a good idea to "dump" your dictionaries as plain text. JOD can dump all open dictionaries as a single J script: see make on page 34. Script dumps are the most stable way to store J dictionaries. The jodsource addon distributes all JOD source code in this form.

```
NB. (make) creates a dictionary dump in the dump sub-directory make ''
```

Make a master re-register script. JOD only sees dictionaries registered in the jmaster.ijf file: see Table 3 on page 49. Maintaining a list of registered dictionaries is recommended. JOD can generate a re-register script: see od on page 38. Generate a re-register script and put it in your main JOD dictionary directory root.

```
NB. generate re-register script
rereg=: ;{: 5 od ''
```

**Set library dictionaries to READONLY.** Open JOD dictionaries define a search path. The first dictionary on the path is the only dictionary that can be changed. It is called the "put" dictionary. Even though nonput dictionaries cannot be changed by JOD it's a good idea to set them READONLY because:

- 1. READONLY dictionaries can be accessed by any number of JOD tasks. READWRITE dictionaries can only be accessed by one task.
- 2. Keeping libraries READONLY prevents accidental put's as you open and close dictionaries.

```
NB. make bptest READONLY
od 'bptest' [ 3 od ''
dpset 'READONLY'
```

**Keep references updated.** JOD stores word references: see globs on page 28. References enable many useful operations. References allow getrx, see page 27, to load words that call other words in new contexts.

```
NB. only put dictionary references need updating
0 globs&> }. revo ''
```

**Document dictionary objects.** Documentation is a long standing sore point for programmers. Most of them hate it. Some claim it's unnecessary and even distracting. Many put in half-assed efforts. In my opinion this is "not even wrong!" Good documentation elevates code. In Knuth's opinion it separates "literate programming" from the odious alternative. JOD provides a number of easy ways to document code: see doc on page 21, put on page 40 and nw on page 36.

**Define your own JOD shortcuts.** JOD words can be used within arbitrary J programs. If you don't find a JOD primitive that meets your needs do a little programming.

```
NB. describe a JOD group
hg_z_=: [: hlpnl [: }. grp

NB. re-reference put dictionary show any errors
reref_z_=: 3 : '(n,.s) #~ -.;0{"1 s=.0 globs&>n=.}.revo'''' [ y'

NB. words referenced by group words that are not in the group
JODGRP_z_=: 'agroup'
nx_z_=: 3 : '(allrefs }. gn) -. gn=. grp JODGRP'

NB. missing from (agroup)
nx ''
```

Customize JOD edit facilities. The main JOD edit words nw on page 36 and ed on page 23 can be customized by defining a DOCUMENTCOMMAND script.

```
NB. define document command script - \{^{\sim}N^{\sim}\} is word name placeholder DOCUMENTCOMMAND_z_ =: 0 : 0 smoutput pr '\{^{\sim}N^{\sim}\}')

NB. edit a new word - opens edit window nw 'bpword'
```

**Define JOD project macros.** When programming with JOD you typically open dictionaries, load system scripts and define nouns. This can be done in a project macro script: see rm on page 44.

```
NB. define a project macro - I use the prefix prj for such scripts
prjsunmoon=: 0 : 0

NB. standard j scripts
require 'debug task'

NB. local script nouns
JODGRP_z_=: 'sunmoon'
JODSUI_z_=: 'sunmoontests'

NB. put/xref
DOCUMENTCOMMAND_z_ =: 'smoutput pr ''{~N~}'''
```

```
NB. store macro
4 put 'prjsunmoon'; JSCRIPT_ajod_; prjsunmoon

NB. setup project
rm 'prjsunmoon' [ od ;:'bpcopy bptest' [ 3 od ''
```

Maintain a make load scripts macro or test. To simplify the maintenance of JOD generated load scripts create a macro or test script that rebuilds load scripts when executed with rm on page 44 or rtt on page 44.

```
NB.*make_load_scripts s-- generates load scripts.
NB.
NB. Can run as a tautology test see: rtt
NB.
NB. created: 2008 jan25
require 'general/jod'
coclass 'AAAmake999'
>0{OPENDIC=: did 0
>0{od 'utils' [ 3 od '
NB. utils scripts
>0{mls 'bstats'
>0{mls 'remdots'
>0{mls 'wordformation'
>0{mls 'xmlutils'
>0{3 od ''}
NB. jod scripts
>0{od ;:'joddev jod utils'
>0{mls 'jodtester'
>0{3 od ''}
NB. flickr utils
>0{od ;:'flickrutdev flickrut utils'
1 rtt 'make_flickrXthumbs'
>0{3 od ''
cocurrent 'AAAmake999'
>0{od }. OPENDIC
```

```
cocurrent 'base'
coerase <'AAAmake999'</pre>
```

#### Edit your jodprofile.ijs. When JOD loads the profile script

```
~addons\general\jod\jodprofile.ijs
```

is run: see appendix F on page 62. Use this script to customize JOD. Note how you can execute project macros when JOD loads with sentences like:

```
NB. open required dictionaries and run project macro rm 'prjsunmoon' [ od ;:'bpcopy bptest'
```

Use JOD help and documentation. JOD documentation is available in two forms. A PDF document jod.pdf is installed with the addon. For online help use jodhelp: see page 32.

```
NB. open JOD online help - requires internet connection jodhelp 'AContents'

NB. open JOD PDF documentation - requires PDF reader jodhelp~ 'PDF'
```

## 5 JOD Interface Words

This section describes all JOD user interface words in alphabetical order. Each word description consists of a short explanation followed by examples. Examples only show J inputs; outputs are omitted. Word arguments are summarized with a form of Hungarian notation: see appendix H on page 65.

When JOD loads it creates a number of locale classes, (see appendix B on page 57), and defines a z locale user interface. JOD's z user interface consists of definitions like:

```
get NB. display get interface
get_1_ ::jodsf

mls NB. display mls interface
mls_8_ ::jodsf

jodsf NB. display error trap
0"_ ; 'JOD SYSTEM FAILURE: last J error -> '"_ , [: 13!:12 ''"_ []
```

Each interface word calls a corresponding object instance word. The default interface is an *error trapping* interface.<sup>5</sup> If any JOD word fails jodsf will catch the error and return JOD's standard (paRc;clMessage) result.

#### 5.1 addgrp – add words/tests to group/suite

addgrp adds words to a group and tests to a suite.

## 5.2 compj — compress J code

compj compresses J code by removing comments, white space and shortening safe local identifiers to single characters.<sup>6</sup> Code compression is useful when preparing production scripts. The JOD system script:

```
~addons\general\jod\jod.ijs
```

is an example of a compressed J script. In its fully commented form this script is about 168 kilobytes when squeezed with <code>compj</code> it shrinks to about 66 kilobytes. <code>compj</code> does not compress words in JOD dictionaries it returns a compressed script result.

Warning: to safely use compj you must understand how to mark ambiguous names. If you do not correctly mark ambiguous names compj compression will break your code!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Provisions for defining a *non-error-trapping* interface exist in JOD source code.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>If more than one character is required to rename all local identifiers compj uses a letter prefixed high base numbering scheme.

Prior to compressing a word apply globs, see page 28, to expose any name problems.

Ambiguous names in J are words created in object instances, temporary locale globals, names masked by indirect assignments and objects created with execute. When you use ambiguous names augment your code with sufficient information to clearly resolve and cross reference all names.

JOD provides two comment scope tags (\*)=. and (\*)=: to clarify ambiguous names. Comment scope tags override J scope.

- 1. local tag NB. (\*)=. local names declared after tag
- 2. global tag NB. (\*)=: global names also declared

The following examples show how to use these tags:

```
indirectassignments=: 4 : 0
NB. Indirect assignments ()=: create objects
NB. that elude static cross referencing.
NB. Declaring the names global and local
NB. makes it possible to cross reference
NB. this verb with (globs)
globref=. ;:'one two three'
NB. declared global (*)=: one two three
(globref)=: y
NB. declared local (*)=. we are hidden locals
locref=. ;:'we are hidden locals'
(locref) = . i. 4
NB. without tags these names appear to
NB. used out of nowhere
one * two * three
we + are + hidden + locals
createobject=: 3 : 0
NB. Object initialization often creates
NB. global nouns that are not really globals.
NB. They only exist within the the scope of
NB. the object. Tags can over ride J's
NB. global scope for cross referencing.
```

```
NB. create "globals" in an object instance
THIS=: STUFF=: IS=: INSIDE=: AN=: OBJECT=: 1

NB. over ride J's scope by declaring names local.

NB. !(*)=. THIS STUFF IS INSIDE AN OBJECT

1
)
```

More examples of the use of comment scope tags can be found in JOD source code. JOD source code is not distributed with JOD. You can get JOD source code by installing the <code>jodsource</code> addon or by downloading <code>jodsource.zip</code> from *The JOD Pages*. JOD source is distributed as JOD Dictionary Dump Scripts.

```
Monad: compj clName V blclNames
```

```
NB. compress a single word
compj 'squeezeme'

NB. compress words beginning with 'fat'
compj }. dnl 'fat'

NB. Compress all words in a group.
'rc script'=. compj }. grp 'group'
```

# 5.3 del — delete objects

del deletes dictionary objects. If objects are on the search path but not in the put dictionary nothing will be deleted and the *non-put-dictionary* objects will be identified in an error message.

Warning: del will remove objects that are in use without warning. This can lead to broken groups and suites. Deleting a word that belongs to a group breaks the group: similarly for suites. An attempt to get or make a broken group or suite will result in an error. You can recover from this error by deleting references, (see below), and regrouping.

#### Monad: del clName V blclNames

```
NB. delete one word
del 'word'

NB. delete many words
del 'go';'ahead';'delete';'us'
```



#### Dyad: iaObject del clName V blclNames

```
NB. delete a test

1 del 'test'

NB. delete a group - words in the

NB. group are not not deleted

2 del 'group'

NB. delete many groups

2 del ;:'we are toast'

NB. delete suites and macros

3 del 'suite'

4 del 'macro'

NB. delete many macros

4 del 'macro';'byebye'

NB. delete references

11 del ;:'remove our references'
```

## 5.4 delgrp – remove words/tests from group/suite

delgrp removes words from a group and tests from a suite.

Removing objects from groups and suites does delete them. To delete objects use del.

## 5.5 did — dictionary identification

did identifies the open dictionaries.

```
Monad: did uuIgnore

NB. lists open dictionaries in path order did 0

Dyad: uuIgnore did uuIgnore

NB. open dictionaries and basic statistics 0 did 0

NB. handy idiom did~ 0
```

## 5.6 disp – display dictionary objects

disp displays dictionary objects. disp returns a character list when successful and the standard boxed (paRc;clMessage) when reporting errors.

```
Monad: disp clName ∨ blclNames
```

NB. display the group text or header

NB. generate and display a group

2 disp 'group'

```
2 1 disp 'groupheader'

NB. generate and display a suite
3 disp 'suite'

NB. display the suite text or header
3 1 disp 'suiteheader'

NB. display one macro
4 disp 'macro'

NB. display many macros
4 disp 'macro'; 'byebye'
```

### 5.7 dnl — dictionary name lists

dnl searches and returns dictionary name lists. The entire path is searched for names and duplicates are removed. A negative option code requests a path order list. A path order list returns the objects in each directory in path order. Raising, removing duplicates and sorting a path order list gives a standard dnl list. dnl arguments follow the pattern:

```
0 dnl '' NB. all words (monad)
1 dnl '' NB. list all tests
2 dnl '' NB. list all groups
3 dnl '' NB. list all suites
4 dnl '' NB. list all macros
```

A word can appear in two dictionaries. When getting such a word the first path occurrence is the value returned. The second value is shadowed by the first as only one value can be retrieved.

```
NB. match word names beginning with str
0 1 dnl 'str'
NB. match word names containing the string str
0 2 dnl 'str'
NB. match word names ending with string str
0 3 dnl 'str'
NB. words and macros have an optional third
NB. item that denotes name class or type
NB. adverb names beginning with str
0 1 1 dnl 'str'
NB. verb names containing str
0 2 3 dnl 'str'
NB. nouns ending with str
0 3 0 dnl 'str'
NB. J macro names beginning with jscript
4 1 21 dnl 'jscript'
NB. LaTeX macro names containing latex
4 2 22 dnl 'latex'
NB. HTML macro names ending with html
4 3 23 dnl 'html'
NB. A negative second item option
NB. code returns a path order list
NB. words containing str (result is a list of lists)
```

```
0 _2 3 dnl 'str'
NB. group names beginning with so
2 _1 dnl 'so'
NB. suite names ending with str
3 _3 dnl 'str'
```

#### 5.8 doc – format word comments

doc formats the leading comment block of explicit J words. The comment block must follow J scriptdoc compatible conventions. The comment style processed by doc is illustrated in the following example. More examples of doc formatting can be examined by displaying words in the distributed JOD dictionaries. Incomplete dyad case not documented.

```
docexample0=: 3 : 0
NB.*docexample0 v-- the leading block of comments
NB. can be a scriptdoc compatible mess as far
NB. as formatting goes.
NB.
NB. However, if you run doc over
NB. a word in a JOD dictionary your
        mess is cleaned up. See below.
NB. \monad docexample uuHungarian
NB. text below MONAD and DYAD marks is left intact
NB. this region is used to display example calls
J code from now on
)
docexample0=:3:0
NB.*docexample0 v-- the leading block of comments can be a
NB. scriptdoc compatible mess as far as formatting goes.
NB. However, if you run doc over a word in a JOD dictionary
NB. your mess is cleaned up. See below.
NB.
NB. \monad docexample uuHungarian
NB. text below MONAD and DYAD marks is left intact
NB. this region is used to display example calls
j code from now on
```

```
Monad: doc clName

NB. format leading comment block
doc 'formatme'
```

### 5.9 dpset — set and change parameters

dpset modifies dictionary parameters. JOD uses a variety of values that control putting, getting and generating objects. Parameters are stored in individual dictionaries and the master file. Master file parameters are initially set from the jodparms.ijs file, see appendix G, on page 63, and cannot be reset without editing jodparms.ijs and recreating the master file. Individual dictionary parameters can be changed at any time. dpset is permissive. It will allow parameters to be set to any value. Invalid values will crash JOD! Before setting any values examine the jodparms.ijs file. This file is used to set the default values of dictionary parameters.

*Note:* If you set an invalid parameter value you can recover using dpset's DEFAULTS option. Not all dictionary parameters can be set by dpset. The parameters dpset can change are dictionary specific user parameters. There are a number of system wide parameters that are set in code and require script edits to change.

If JOD or the host OS crashes the master file could be left in a state that makes it impossible to reopen dictionaries. RESETME and RESETALL clears the read status codes in the master file. RESETME resets all dictionaries recently opened from the current machine. RESETALL resets all dictionaries in the master file. In the worst case you can rebuild the master file by:

- 1. Exiting J.
- 2. Deleting the files:

```
~addons\general\jod\jmaster.ijf
~addons\general\jod\jod.ijn
```

- 3. Restarting J.
- 4. Reloading JOD with: load 'general/jod'

Monad: dpset zl \ clName \ (clName;uuParm)

```
NB. list all parameters and current values
dpset ''

NB. restore default settings in put dictionary
dpset 'DEFAULTS'

NB. option names are case sensitive

NB. resets current machine dictionaries
dpset 'RESETME'

NB. resets all dictionaries
dpset 'RESETALL'
```

Note: if a JOD dictionary is being used by more than one user never use RESETALL unless you are absolutely sure you will not reset other users!

```
NB. clears the put dictionary reference path dpset 'CLEARPATH'

NB. makes the current put dictionary read-only dpset 'READONLY'

NB. makes the current put dictionary read-write dpset 'READWRITE'

NB. get 1000 objects in each get loop pass dpset 'GETFACTOR';1000
```

# 5.10 ed – edit dictionary objects

ed fetches or generates dictionary objects and puts them in an edit window for editing.

```
Monad: ed clName V blclNames

NB. retrieve word and place in edit window ed 'word'

NB. put many words in edit window ed ;:'many words edited'
```

## 5.11 et – put text into edit window

et load character lists into edit windows.

```
Monad: et clText

NB. put character data into edit window
et 'put text in edit window'

NB. read text and put in edit window
et read 'c:\temp\text.txt'
```

## 5.12 gdeps — group dependents

gdeps returns lists of global names in the dependent section, (see subsection 6.2 on page 47), of group and suite headers.

Monad: gdeps clGroup

```
NB. globals in the dependent section of group 'jod'
gdeps 'jod'

NB. all dependent section globals in all groups
gdeps&> }. grp ''

Dyad: iaOption gdeps clName

NB. globals in the dependent section of suite 'testenv'
3 gdeps 'testenv'
```

## 5.13 get — get objects

**Monad:** get clName \times blclNames

get retrieves dictionary objects and information about dictionary objects. There is a close correspondence between the arguments of get and put, see subsection 5.30, on page 40. A basic JOD rule is that if you can put it you can get it.

NB. allow numbered locales

'666' get ;: 'beast code' NB. explain words 0 8 get ;: 'explain us ehh' NB. word documentation 0 9 get ;: 'document or die' NB. get word scripts without defining 0 10 get 'define';'not' NB. information about stored NB. words can be retrieved with get NB. J name class of words 0 12 get ;: 'our name class' NB. word creation dates 0 13 get ;: 'our creation' NB. last word put dates 0 14 get ;: 'last change' NB. word size in bytes 0 15 get ;: 'how big are we' NB. get test scripts 1 7 get 'i'; 'test'; 'it' NB. test explanations 1 8 get ;: 'explain tests' NB. test case documentation 1 9 get 'radical' NB. information about stored tests NB. test creation dates 1 13 get ;: 'our creation' NB. last test put dates

```
1 14 get ;: 'last change'
NB. test size in bytes
1 15 get ;: 'how big are we'
NB. get group scripts
2 7 get ;: 'groupies cool'
NB. get group explaination text
2 8 get 'group';'explain'
NB. get group document text
2 9 get 'document'
NB. suite text
3 7 get ;: 'this suites me'
NB. explain suites
3 8 get ;: 'suites need comments'
NB. document suites
3 9 get ;: 'document your suites'
NB. get various macros
4 get 'jmacro'; 'html'; 'latex'
NB. explain macros
4 8 get ;: 'macros need explaining'
4 9 get ;: 'and documents too'
```

# 5.14 getrx – get required to execute

getrx gets all the words required to execute words on (y).

*Warning:* if the words listed on (y) refer to object or locale references this verb returns an error because such words generally cannot be run out of context.

```
Monad: getrx clName \vee blclNames

NB. load required words into base locale
getrx 'stuffineed'
```

```
NB. get all words required to run many words
getrx; 'stuff we need to run'

Dyad: clLocale getrx clName \vee blclNames

NB. load all required words into locale
'locale' getrx; 'load the stuff we need into locale'
```

#### 5.15 globs — global references

globs analyzes global references in words and tests. A global reference is a nonlocal J name where nonlocality is with respect to the current word's scope. Names with locale references, for example:

are treated like primitives. This makes it possible to define clean locale/object interfaces. In the case of indirect locale references the suffix noun(s) must exist to determine the name class of the word. This makes static name analysis difficult. By treating such references as "primitives" this problem is swept under the proverbial rug.

For example the jfiles utility is often accessed with z locale definitions like:

```
jread_z_ =: jread_jfiles_
```

Words that use jread can simply call it without any locale suffixes. For this case globs will detect the use of jread but will cease searching the call tree when it encounters jread\_jfiles\_.

Globals referenced by test scripts are not stored because tests often manipulate their working environments in ways that make static name analysis unfeasible. globs is one of two verbs, (globs, grp), that create references. For globs to store references the word must be in the put dictionary, all word references must exist on the path and the current path must match the put dictionary path.

```
Monad: globs clName

NB. list globals in locale word globs 'word'
```

#### Dyad: iaObject globs clName

```
NB. update referenced globals
0 globs 'word'

NB. update all words in a group
0 globs&> }. grp 'group'

NB. list global references in test text
1 globs 'test'

NB. classify name references in locale word.
11 globs 'word'
```

## 5.16 grp — create and modify groups

grp creates and modifies word groups and test suites. A group is a list of objects. Operations on groups do not change the objects that belong to groups. When a group is created the put dictionary's reference path is compared to the current dictionary path. If the paths do not match an error is returned and the group is not created.

```
Monad: grp zl V clName V blclNames
```

```
NB. list all word groups (2 dnl '')
grp ''

NB. list words in group
grp 'group'

NB. create/reset group first name is the group name
grp 'group';'list';'of';'group';'names'

NB. has effect of emptying but not deleting group
grp <'group'

Dyad: iaObject grp zl V clName V blclNames

NB. list all test groups (suites) (3 dnl '')
3 grp ''</pre>
```

```
NB. list tests in suite
3 grp 'suite'

NB. (monad)
2 grp 'group';'list';'of';'group';'names'

NB. create/reset suite
3 grp 'suite';'list';'of';'test';'names'

NB. empty suite
3 grp <'suite'</pre>
```

## 5.17 gt – get edit window text

Fetch text from edit window.

```
Monad: gt zl V clName

NB. returns text from the word.ijs edit window
gt 'word'

NB. using gt to update a test and macro.
1 put 'test';gt 'test'

4 put 'macro';21;gt 'macro'
```

## 5.18 hlpnl – display short object descriptions

hlpnl displays short object descriptions.

Short object descriptions are always a good idea. If you cannot *tersely* describe an object you probably don't understand it. Short descriptions are stored with put.

```
Monad: hlpnl clName ∨ blclNames

NB. put short word description
0 8 put 'describeme';'briefly describe me'

NB. display short word description
hlpnl 'describeme'
```

```
NB. display many descriptions
 hlpnl ;: 'show our short word descriptions'
 NB. describe all the words in a group
 hlpnl }. grp 'groupname'
 NB. describe all the words called by a word
 hlpnl allrefs <'wordname'
 NB. describe all dictionary words
 hlpnl }. dnl ''
Dyad: iaObject hlpnl clName V blclNames
 NB. display short word description (monad)
 0 hlpnl 'word'
 NB. display test, group, suite, macro descriptions
 1 hlpnl 'testname'
 2 hlpnl 'groupname'
 3 hlpnl 'suitename'
 4 hlpnl 'macroname'
 NB. describe a test suite
 3 hlpnl }. 3 dnl 'testsuite'
 NB. describe a group
 2 hlpnl }. 2 dnl 'groupname'
 NB. describe macro scripts with prefix 'prj'
 4 hlpnl }. 4 dnl 'prj'
```

# 5.19 jodage — age of JOD objects

jodage returns the age of JOD objects. When an object is put into a dictionary the date is recorded.

The monad returns the age of words and the dyad returns the age of other objects. JOD dates are stored in a fractional day yyyymmdd. £d floating point format.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> JOD times are derived from *local* computer clock times. UTC is not used.



```
Monad: jodage clWord \vee blclWords

NB. show age of (jodage)
  jodage 'jodage'

NB. age of all group words
  jodage \right\ agroup 'bstats'

Dyad: ia jodage clWord \vee blclNames

NB. age of all test scripts
  1 jodage \right\ 1 dnl ''

NB. age of group script
  2 jodage 'mygroup'

NB. age of all macro scripts
  4 jodage \right\ 4 dnl ''
```

#### 5.20 jodhelp — return help

jodhelp displays online help for JOD words. The monad returns help for specific words and displays an index. The dyad displays jod.pdf and lists all words that have online help.

```
Monad: jodhelp clWord
```

```
NB. show (put) help
jodhelp 'put'

NB. display help index
jodhelp ''
```

#### Dyad: uuIgnore V clPDF jodhelp uuIgnore

```
NB. list help topics - ignores arguments
jodhelp~ 0

NB. open PDF documentation
'PDF' jodhelp ''

NB. handy idiom
jodhelp~ 'PDF'
```

#### 5.21 lg – make and load group

lg assembles and loads JOD group scripts. The monad loads without the postprocessor script and the dyad loads with the postprocessor.

The postprocessor is a JOD macro script that is associated with a group. If a group is named numtutils the associated postprocessor is named POST\_numutils. The prefix POST\_labels macro scripts as postprocessors. The postprocessor is appended to generated group scripts and is often used to start systems.

```
Monad: lg clGroup

NB. make and load group without postprocessor
lg 'groupname'

Dyad: iaOption lg clGroup

NB. monad
2 lg 'groupname'

NB. define a group postprocessor macro script
NB. 21 identifies macro text as an arbitrary J script
4 put 'POST_groupname';21;'smoutput ''hello world'''

NB. make and load appending postprocessor
lg~ 'groupname'
```

# 5.22 locgrp – list groups/suites with word/test

locgrp lists groups and suites with word or test (y). A word or test can belong to many groups or suites.

```
Monad: logrp clName

NB. list all groups that contain 'myword'
locgrp 'myword'

NB. list all suites that contain 'thistest'
locgrp 'thistest'
```

#### 5.23 make — generates dictionary scripts

make generates J scripts from objects stored in dictionaries. The generated scripts can be returned as results or written to file: see subsection 6.1 on page 46.

Generated scripts are stored in the standard dump, script and suite subdirectories. Monadic make dumps all the objects on the current path to a J script file. The dump file is a single J script that can be used to rebuild dictionaries.

make uses the reference path to generate words, tests, groups and suites. When generating groups and suites make returns an error if the current path does not match the reference path. By default dyadic make generates objects that exist in the current put dictionary. This can be overridden with a negative option code.

```
Monad: make z1 ∨ clDumpfile
```

```
NB. Dump objects on current path
 NB. to put dictionary dump directory.
 NB. The name of the put dictionary is
 NB. used as the dump file name.
 make ''
 NB. dump to specified file
 make 'c:\dump\on\me.ijs'
       iaObject make zl V clName V blclNames
Dyad:
       (iaObject, iaOption) make clName
 0 make ;:'an arbitrary list of words into a script'
 0 2 make ;: 'generate a character list script result'
 NB. make J script that defines a group
 2 make 'group'
 NB. make J script that defines a suite
 3 make 'suite'
```

An option code controls whether results are written to file, (1 default), or returned, (2 return), for word lists, groups and suites. Default dictionary file locations are the subdirectories created by newd: see page 36.

```
NB. make and return group script
2 2 make 'group'
```

```
NB. make put dictionary suite script and write to file 3 1 make 'suite'

NB. make and file group script. The group does not NB. have to exist in the put dictionary but can NB. occur anywhere on the path.

2 _1 make 'group'

NB. make suite script and write to file 3 _1 make 'suite'
```

#### 5.24 mls — make load script

mls generates J load scripts. The generated script is added to the current user's start up script

```
~config\startup.ijs
```

and inserted in the session's PUBLIC\_j\_ table.

An mls load script is independent of JOD and can be used like any other J load script, for example:

```
load 'mlsmademe'
```

The generated script can be written to file or returned. Generated scripts are stored in the put dictionary script subdirectory. mls appends any postprocessor to the generated script: see subsection 6.1 Generated Script Structure, on page 46.

Monad: mls clGroupname

```
NB. add a postprocessor script for (addgroup)
postproc=. 'smoutput ''''this is a post processor''''
4 put 'POST_appgroup'; JSCRIPT_ajod_; postproc

NB. generate group script with
NB. postprocessor and add to startup.ijs
mls 'appgroup'

NB. load group - postprocessor runs
load 'appgroup'
```

Dyad: iaOption mls clGroupname

```
NB. make J script file but do
NB. not add to startup.ijs
0 mls 'bstats'

NB. monad
1 mls 'bstats'

NB. return generated script as result
NB. does not add to startup.ijs
2 mls 'bstats'
```

#### 5.25 newd — create a new dictionary

newd creates a new dictionary. Dictionary creation generates a set of files in a standard dictionary directory structure: see Figure 3 on page 48. The root directory, dictionary name, and optional dictionary documentation can be specified. All other dictionary creation parameters are taken from the master file.

# 5.26 nw — edit a new explicit word

nw edits a new explicit word in an edit window using JOD format conventions. nw will append the character list DOCUMENTCOMMAND to the text placed in an edit window. This allows the user to define an arbitrary script that is run when a word is defined with CTRL-W.

**Monad:** nw clName

```
NB. open an edit window with an explicit 'newword'
nw 'newword'

NB. define a script that is run when the J edit
NB. window is run with CTRL-W. {~N~} placeholders
NB. are replaced with the name of the new word

DOCUMENTCOMMAND_z_=: 0 : 0

smoutput pr '{~N~}'
)

NB. edit a word with DOCUMENTCOMMAND
nw 'placeholdername'
```

#### Dyad: iaNameclass nw clName

```
NB. edit an explict adverb

1 nw 'adverb'

NB. edit an explict conjunction

2 nw 'conjunction'

NB. edit an explicit text noun

0 nw 'text'

NB. edit an explicit word (monad)

3 nw 'word'

NB. edit dyadic word

4 nw 'dyad'
```

#### 5.27 nt — edit a new test

nt edits a new test script in an edit window.

nt looks for the test script 'teststub' on the path and inserts teststub text in the edit window. teststub allows users to define custom script formats.

Monad: nt clTestName

```
NB. open an edit window
nt 'newtest'
NB. define a custom test script
testheader=: 0 : 0
NB.*{~T~} t-- test script header
NB.
NB. This is my custom test script header.
NB. The \{^T^T\} strings are replaced with test
NB. name and creation time
NB.
NB. created: {~created~}
)
NB. save custom header in put dictionary
1 put 'teststub'; testheader
NB. edit a new test using the custom header
nt 'customtest'
```

## 5.28 od — open dictionaries

od opens dictionaries. Open dictionaries are appended to the path in the order they are opened. Dictionaries can be opened READWRITE (default) or READONLY. Only one J task can open a dictionary READONLY. If any task has a dictionary open READONLY it can only be opened READONLY by other tasks. If a dictionary is opened READWRITE by a task it cannot be opened by other dictionary tasks. This harsh protocol insures that only one task can update a dictionary.

The first dictionary on the search path is special! It is the only dictionary that can be updated by JOD verbs. Because most updates are puts the first dictionary is called the *put dictionary*.

```
Monad: od zl V clDictionary V blclDictionaries
```

```
NB. list registered dictionaries od ''

NB. open read/write od 'dictionary'

NB. opens di read/write od 'd1';'d2';'d3'
```

```
Dyad: iaOption od zl V clDictionary
       iaOption od zl blclDictionaries
 NB. list registered dictionaries (monad)
 1 od ''
 NB. close all open dictionaries (related to did 4)
 3 od ''
 NB. open read/write (monad)
 1 od 'dictionary'
 NB. open read only and append to any path
 2 od 'dictionary'
 NB. open di read only and append to any path
 2 od 'd1';'d2';'d3'
 NB. close dictionaries and remove from path
 3 od ;:'d0 d1 d2'
 NB. all dictionary root directories
 4 od ''
 NB. list all dictionaries as regd script
 5 od ''
```

# 5.29 packd – backup and pack dictionaries

packd removes all unused space from dictionary files by copying active components to new files. After the packd operation is complete the new dictionary files are renamed to match the original files. During the copy operation directories are checked against the items in dictionary files. If a directory data discrepancy is detected the pack operation ends with an error. Old files are renamed with an increasing sequential backup number prefix, e.g.: 13jwords.ijf and retained in the backup subdirectory. If a packd operation succeeds the backup dictionary has no directory data inconsistencies.

A packd operation can be reversed with restd. There is no JOD facility for deleting backup files. To erase backup files use OS facilities.

The read/write status of a dictionary is recorded in the master file. JOD assumes all users and tasks point to the same master file.

Monad: packd clDictionary

```
NB. packd requires an open READWRITE dictionary od 'dictionary'

NB. reclaim unused file space in dictionary 
NB. and retain original files as a backup 
packd 'dictionary'
```

#### 5.30 put — store objects in dictionary

The put verb stores objects in the put dictionary. It can store words, tests, groups, suites and macros. As a general rule: if something can be stored with put it can be retrieved by get.

```
Monad: put clName ∨ blclNames
 NB. default is put words from base locale
 put 'word'
 NB. store all base locale verbs in dictionary
 put nl 3
Dyad: iaObject put clName V blclNames V btNvalues
       clLocale put clName \dagger blclNames \dagger btNvalues
       (iaObject,iaQualifier) put clName ∨ blclNames
       (iaObject, iaQualifier) put clName btNvalues
 NB. put words (monad)
 0 put ;:'w0 w1 w2 w3 w4'
 NB. put words from specified locale
 'locale' put 'w0';'w2';'w3'
 NB. numbered locales
 '99' put 'word'
 NB. put explain/document text
 NB. words must exist in dictionary
 0 8 put (;:'w0 w1'),.('text ...';'text ...')
 0 9 put (;:'w0 w1'),.('text ...';'text ...')
 NB. put words from name class value table
```

```
0 10 put ('w0'; 'w1'),.(3;3),.'code0..';'code1..
NB. put tests from name value table
1 put (;:'t0 t1'),.('text ...';'text ...')
NB. put test explain/document text
1 8 put (;:'t0 t1'),.('text ...';'text ...')
1 9 put (;:'t0 t1'),.('text ...';'text ...')
NB. put group header scripts from name, value table
NB. A group header script is an arbitrary J script
NB. that preceeds the code generated by make.
NB. Group header scripts can be put
NB. with 2 1 as well - maintains put/get symmetry
2 put (;:'g0 g1'),.('text ...';'text ...')
2 1 put (;:'g0 g1'),.('text ...';'text ...')
NB. put group explain/document text
2 8 put (;:'g0 g1'),.('text ...';'text ...')
2 9 put (;:'g0 g1'),.('text ...';'text ...')
NB. put suite header scripts from name value table
3 put (;:'s0 s1'),.('text ...';'text ...')
3 1 put (;:'s0 s1'),.('text ...';'text ...')
NB. put suite explain/document text
3 8 put (;:'s0 s1'),.('text ...';'text ...')
3 9 put (;:'s0 s1'),.('text ...';'text ...')
NB. put macro scripts from name, type, value table
NB. J scripts - can be run with (rm)
4 put (;:'m0 m1'),.(21;21),.('text ...';'...')
NB. LaTeX
4 put (;:'m0 m1'),.(22;22),.('text ...';'...')
4 put (;:'m0 m1'),.(23;23),.('text ...';'...')
NB. XML
```

```
4 put (;:'m0 ml'),.(24;24),.('text ...';'...')

NB. plain ASCII text
4 put (;:'m0 ml'),.(25;25),.('text ...';'...')

NB. UTF-8 unicode text
4 put (;:'m0 ml'),.(26;26),.('text ...';'...')

NB. put macro explain/document text
4 8 put (;:'m0 ml'),.('text ...';'text ...')
4 9 put (;:'m0 ml'),.('text ...';'text ...')
```

#### 5.31 regd — register dictionaries

restd registers and unregisters dictionaries in the master file. A dictionary is a set of files in a standard directory structure. The newd verb creates JOD directories and files. There is no JOD verb that destroys dictionaries; actual deletion of dictionary files and directories must be done using other means. However, you can unregister a dictionary. When a dictionary is unregistered it is removed from the main dictionary directory in the master file. It will no longer appear on od lists and will no longer be accessible with JOD interface verbs. Conversely, you can also register dictionaries with regd.

```
Monad: regd (clDictionary;clPath;clDocumentation)
```

```
NB. register dictionary with name
NB. directory and dictionary must exist
regd 'name';'c:\location\'
NB. register dictionary with optional documentation
regd 'name';'c:\location\';'Documentation text'
```

#### Dyad: iaOption regd clDictionary

```
NB. unregistering a dictionary does not delete files 3 regd 'name'

NB. regd can be used to rename dictionaries NB. and update dictionary documentation

NB. unregister
```

```
'name path' =. _2 {. 3 regd 'badname'

NB. re-register with new name and documentation

doc =. 'brand spanking new documenation'

regd 'goodname';path;doc
```

#### 5.32 restd – restore backup dictionaries

restd restores the last backup created by packd.

**Monad:** restd clDictionary

restd 'lastbackup'

```
NB. open dictionary READWRITE

NB. must be first dictionary on the path
od 'lastbackup' [ 3 od ''

NB. restore last dictionary backup
```

## 5.33 revo – list recently revised objects

revo lists recently revised objects. Only put dictionary objects can be revised and only put operations are considered revisions.

```
Monad: revo zl V clName

NB. all put dictionary words in last put order revo ''

NB. revised words with names beginning with 'boo' revo 'boo'

Dyad: iaObject revo zl V clName

NB. list all revised tests
1 revo ''

NB. revised suites with names prefixed by 'boo' 3 revo 'boo'
```

#### 5.34 rm – run macros

Monad: rm cl V blclNames

A JOD macro is an arbitrary J script. rm fetches J macro scripts and runs them. rm sets the current locale to base and starts executing macro scripts in base.

```
NB. run J macro
rm 'macro'

NB. run macros with names starting with 'DoUs'
rm }. dnl 'DoUs'

Dyad: iaOption rm zl V clName V blclNames

NB. run J script and suppress output
1 rm 'quiet'

NB. note the repeat
1 rm ;:'run silent run deep'
```

#### 5.35 rtt – run tautology tests

rtt runs tautology test scripts stored in JOD dictionaries.

J has a built in test facility see: (0!:2) and (0!:3). These foreigns run scripts and stop if the result deviates from arrays of 1's. This facility is used by J's developers and rtt applies it to dictionary test scripts.

rtt starts scripts in the base locale.

```
Monad: rtt clName \vee blclNames

NB. run test script as a tautology
rtt 'tautologytest'

NB. run all tautology tests in a suite
rtt \right\rangle. 3 grp 'testsuite'
```

iaOption rtt clName ∨ blclNames

```
NB. same as monad
0 rtt 'tautologytest'

NB. run tautology test and suppress output
1 rtt 'silenttautology'

NB. run test as plain script
2 rtt 'plaintest'

NB. generate test suite and run as tautology
3 rtt 'suitename'

NB. generate test suite and run as silent tautology
4 rtt 'silentsuite'
```

#### 5.36 uses — return word uses

uses lists words used by other words. The lists are derived from the cross references generated by globs. The typical result of uses is a boxed table. Column 0 is a list of names and column 1 is list of pairs of boxed lists. Each boxed list pair contains nonlocale and locale global references.

When computing the uses union, (option 31), only nonlocale references are searched for further references. In general it is not possible to search locale references as they typically refer to objects created at runtime. In this system such references are treated as black boxes. It is important to know an object is being referenced even if you cannot peer inside the object.

```
Monad: uses blclName \vert clName

NB. list all words used by words(0 globs)
uses ;:'word globals'

Dyad: iaObject uses blclName \vert clname

NB. same as monad
0 uses 'word'

NB. uses union of word
31 uses ;:'all known words we call'
```

# 6 JOD Scripts

#### **6.1** Generated Script Structure

To use dictionary words it is necessary to generate scripts. Generated scripts come in three basic flavors:

- 1. Arbitrary J scripts
- 2. Header and list scripts
- 3. Dump scripts

JOD test, macro and group/suite headers are arbitrary J scripts. There are no restrictions on the structure of these scripts. Group and suite scripts generated by make, mls and lg, (see pages 34, 35, 33), are header and list scripts.

JOD generated script structure mirrors what you typically do in a J application script. With most J application scripts you:

- 1. Setup the application's runtime environment.
- 2. Load the classes, words and data that comprise the application.
- 3. Start the application.

This pattern of *setup*, *load* and *start* is seen over and over in J scripts: see Table 2 on page 46.

| Generated Script Structure       |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Section Type Description Example |  |  |  |  |  |
| Setup                            | Active   | Define group and Suite headers.<br>Headers may contain one dependent section.                          | NB. define a group header 2 1 put 'groupname';' script text '  NB. define a suite header 3 1 put 'suitename';' suite text '                |  |  |
| Load                             | Passive  | Load lists of words or tests. <i>Only word lists are passive</i> . Tests are typically active scripts. | NB. form group from stored words grp 'groupname'; ;:'words in group'  NB. form suite from stored tests 3 grp 'suitename'; ;:'stored tests' |  |  |
| Start                            | Active Associate a postprocessor macro with a group or suite. Postprocessors are prefixed with POST_ |  | NB. group postprocessor 4 put 'POST_groupname';21;' script '  NB. test suite postprocessor 4 put 'POST_suitename';21;' script '            |  |  |

Table 2: JOD generated script structure

#### **6.2** Dependent Section

A dependent section is a delimited subsection of a group or suite header, (see grp on page 29), that is used to define related words and runtime globals. Global words defined in a dependent section are removed from group lists when groups are generated with make, mls and lg: see pages 34, 35 and 33. This insures that the values assigned in the dependent section are maintained when the group script loads.

A dependent section is delimited with *NB*.\*dependents and *NB*.\*enddependents and only one dependent section per group header is allowed. The following is the dependent section in the jod class group header. Globals in a dependent section are returned by gdeps, see page 24.

```
NB. *dependents
NB. Words defined in this section have related definitions.
NB. line feed, carriage return, tab and line ends
LF=:10{a.
CR = :13{a}.
TAB=:9{a.}
CRLF=:CR,LF
NB. option codes - to add more add a new object code
NB. and modify the following definition of MACROTYPE
JSCRIPT=:21
LATEX=:22
HTML=:23
XML=:24
TEXT=:25
UTF8=:26
NB. macro text types, depends on: JSCRIPT, LATEX, HTML, XML, TEXT, UTF8
MACROTYPE=: JSCRIPT, LATEX, HTML, XML, TEXT, UTF8
NB. object codes
WORD=:0
TEST=:1
GROUP=:2
SUITE=:3
NB. object name class, depends on: WORD, TEST, GROUP, SUITE, MACRO
OBJECTNC=: WORD, TEST, GROUP, SUITE, MACRO
NB. bad object code, depends on: OBJECTNC
badobj=:[: -. [: *./ [: , ] e. OBJECTNC"_
NB. path delimiter character & path punctuation characters
PATHDEL=: '\'
PATHCHRS=: ' :.-', PATHDEL
NB. default master profile user locations
JMASTER=:jodsystempath 'jmaster'
JODPROF=: jodsystempath 'jodprofile.ijs'
JODUSER=: jodsystempath 'joduserconfig.ijs'
NB. *enddependents
```

# 7 JOD Directory and File Layouts

JOD stores J objects in binary jfiles. When newd creates a dictionary it registers the location of the dictionary in jmaster.ijf, see Table 3 on page 49, and creates a set of standard directories: see Figure 3 on page 48. This section describes the internal structure of JOD's binary jfiles.

# JOD Directory Structure created by newd | alien | Unused reserved for files related to the control of the cont

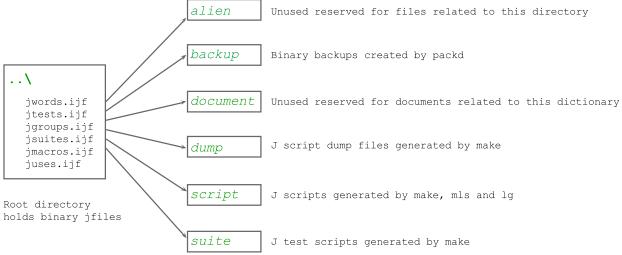


Figure 3: newd generates this directory stucture when a new JOD dictionary is created. The locations of JOD directories are stored in directory objects when dictionaries are opened.

# 7.1 Master File — jmaster.ijf

jmaster.ijs is a binary component jfile. To use jfiles you load or require the standard jfiles script.

jmaster.ijf is an index of currently registered dictionaries and standard dictionary metadata. The component layout of jmaster.ijf is given in Table 3 on page 49.

# 7.2 Words File — jwords.ijf

jwords.ijs is a binary component jfile.

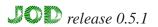
jwords.ijf contains word definitions and metadata. The component layout of jwords.ijf is given in Table 4 on page 50.

| jmaster.ijf                     |          |  |  |
|---------------------------------|----------|--|--|
| Component Hungarian Description |          |  |  |
| $c_0$                           | (pa;il)  | Use bit and last master change.  The use bit is set by all processes that update this file - while set the use bit blocks other dictionary tasks from updating this file.  |  |
| $c_1$                           | (cl;i,X) | Version m.m.p character, build count and unique master file id.  |  |
| $c_2$                           | bt       | Dictionary names, numbers, directories and read-write status.  When a dictionary is opened for update (READWRITE default) by od the status is set and stays on until closed by od. This blocks all other dictionary tasks from using the dictionary. This harsh treatment prevents garbled files. Dictionaries can also be opened read only. This allows multiple readers but no writers.                                |  |
| $c_3$                           | bt       | Previous master directory.  Essentially a copy of component two less at most one deleted or new dictionary.  |  |
| $c_4 \rightarrow c_6$           |          | Reserved.  |  |
| <i>c</i> <sub>7</sub>           | bt       | Active dictionary parameters.  0 { - blcl; parameter names 1 { - blcl; short parameter explanation 2 { - bluu; default values  |  |
| $c_8$                           | bt       | Copy of active dictionary parameters.  |  |
| <i>c</i> <sub>9</sub>           | bt       | Default dictionary parameters.   |  |
| $c_{10}$                        | xl       | Dictionary log.  The dictionary log is a simple, (append only), list of all the extended dictionary numbers that have ever been registered. When a dictionary is registered it is appended to this list. If it is unregistered and then re-registered the same dictionary number will appear more than once. I don't expect this list to be very large. Hundreds, maybe thousands, over the lifetime of the master file. |  |

Table 3: jmaster.ijf file component layout

| jwords.ijf                  |           |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|
| Component                   | Hungarian | Description  |  |  |
| $c_0$                       | blnl      | Length and last directory change.  |  |  |
| $c_1$                       | il        | Pack and backup count. Used to prefix backup and dump files.   |  |  |
| $c_2$                       | blcl      | Dictionary documentation newd, regd.   |  |  |
| $c_3$                       | bluu      | Dictionary parameters.  0 { - cl; dictionary name 1 { - Xa; dictionary number (extended precision) 2 { - il; dictionary creation date 3 { - il; last dump date (NOT UPDATED) 4 { - cl; script directory 5 { - cl; suite directory 6 { - cl; macro directory 7 { - cl; document directory 8 { - cl; dump directory 9 { - cl; alien directory 10 { - cl; J version that created dictionary 11 { - ia; J system code that created dictionary 12 { - uu; unused - reserved 13 { - bt; user dictionary parameters see: jmaster.ijf. 0 { cl; parameter |  |  |
|                             |           | 1 { uu ; value } Main inverted items, $c_4  ightharpoonup c_{11}$ have the same length.  |  |  |
| $c_4$                       | blcl      | Word list (main index 1).  |  |  |
| $c_5$                       | il        | Word components (main index 2).  |  |  |
| $c_6$                       | il        | Name class list.   |  |  |
| c <sub>7</sub>              | fl        | Last put date list yyyymmdd. fd (fractional day).  |  |  |
| c <sub>8</sub>              | fl        | Creation put list yyyymmdd. fd (fractional day).   |  |  |
| <i>c</i> 9                  | il        | Word size in bytes.  |  |  |
| $c_{10}$                    |           | Reserved.  |  |  |
| c <sub>11</sub>             | blcl      | Short word explanations.   |  |  |
| $c_{12} \rightarrow c_{38}$ |           | Reserved.  |  |  |
| -12 -36                     |           |  |  |  |
|                             |           | The remaining component pairs contain word data. The word names match the entries in   |  |  |
|                             |           | the word index list.   |  |  |
| <i>c</i> <sub>39</sub>      | bluu      | Word definition.  0 { - cl; word name 1 { - ia; name class 2 { - cl \setminus uu; word value, nouns are stored in binary all other words are character lists   |  |  |
| $c_{40}$                    | bluu      | Word documentation and other.  0 { - cl; word name 1 { - uu; unused - reserved 2 { - uu; unused - reserved 3 { - cl; text documentation  |  |  |
| $c_{41}$                    | bluu      | Like $c_{39}$  |  |  |
| c <sub>42</sub>             | bluu      | Like c <sub>40</sub>   |  |  |
|                             |           |  |  |  |
| $c_n$                       |           | Like $c_{n-2}$   |  |  |

Table 4: jwords.ijf file component layout



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#### 7.3 Tests File — jtests.ijf

jtests.ijs is a binary component jfile.

jtests.ijf contains test definitions and metadata. The component layout of jtests.ijf is given in Table 5 on page 51.

| jtests.ijf                  |           |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|
| Component                   | Hungarian | Description  |  |  |
| $c_0$                       | blnl      | Length and last directory change.  |  |  |
| $c_1 \rightarrow c_3$       |           | Reserved.  |  |  |
|                             |           | Mark and the state of the state |  |  |
|                             |           | Main inverted items, $c_4 \rightarrow c_{11}$ have the same length.  |  |  |
| $c_4$                       | blcl      | Test list (main index 1).  |  |  |
| $c_5$                       | il        | Test components (main index 2).  |  |  |
| $c_6$                       |           | Reserved to match jwords.ijf.  |  |  |
| $c_7$                       | fl        | Last put date list yyyymmdd.fd (fractional day).   |  |  |
| $c_8$                       | fl        | Creation put list yyyymmdd.fd (fractional day).  |  |  |
| <i>c</i> <sub>9</sub>       | il        | Test size in bytes.  |  |  |
| $c_{10}$                    |           | Reserved.  |  |  |
| $c_{11}$                    | blcl      | Short test explanations.   |  |  |
| $c_{12} \rightarrow c_{38}$ |           | Reserved.  |  |  |
|                             |           |  |  |  |
|                             |           | The remaining component pairs contain test data. The test names match the entries in   |  |  |
|                             |           | the test index $c_4$ list.   |  |  |
|                             |           | Test definition.   |  |  |
| 0                           | blcl      |  |  |  |
| $c_{39}$                    | DICI      | 0 { - cl; test name  |  |  |
|                             |           | 1 { - cl; test value   |  |  |
|                             |           | Test documentation and other.  |  |  |
|                             |           |  |  |  |
| $c_{40}$                    | bluu      | 0 { - cl; test name  |  |  |
| C40                         | Didd      | 1 { - uu; unused - reserved  |  |  |
|                             |           | 2 { - uu; unused - reserved  |  |  |
|                             |           | 3 { - cl; text documentation   |  |  |
| $c_{41}$                    | blcl      | Like $c_{39}$  |  |  |
| $c_{42}$                    | bluu      | Like $c_{40}$  |  |  |
|                             |           |  |  |  |
| $c_n$                       |           | Like $c_{n-2}$   |  |  |

Table 5: jtests.ijf file component layout

# 7.4 Groups File — jgroups.ijf

jgroups.ijs is a binary component jfile.

jgroups.ijf contains group definitions and group metadata. The component layout of jgroups.ijf is given in Table 6 on page 52.

## 7.5 Suites File — jsuites.ijf

jsuites.ijs is a binary component jfile.

|                             | jgroups.ijf |   |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---|--|--|--|
| Component Hungarian         |             | Description   |  |  |  |
| $c_0$                       | blnl        | Group count and last directory change.  |  |  |  |
| $c_1 \rightarrow c_3$       |             | Reserved.   |  |  |  |
|                             |             | Main inverted items, $c_4 \rightarrow c_{11}$ have the same length.   |  |  |  |
| $c_4$                       | blcl        | Group list (main index 1).  |  |  |  |
| $c_5$                       | il          | Group components (main index 2).  |  |  |  |
| $c_6$                       |             | Reserved to match jwords.ijf.   |  |  |  |
| $c_7$                       | fl          | Last put date list yyyymmdd.fd (fractional day).  |  |  |  |
| $c_8$                       | fl          | Creation put list yyyymmdd.fd (fractional day).   |  |  |  |
| $c_9 \rightarrow c_{10}$    |             | Reserved.   |  |  |  |
| $c_{11}$                    | blcl        | Short group explanations.   |  |  |  |
| $c_{12} \rightarrow c_{38}$ |             | Reserved.   |  |  |  |
|                             |             | The remaining component pairs contain group data. The group names match the entries in the group index $c_4$ list.                        |  |  |  |
| $c_{39}$                    | bluu        | Group definition.  0 { - cl; group name 1 { - cl; group prefix script 2 { - blcl; group content list                                      |  |  |  |
| $c_{40}$                    | bluu        | Group documentation and other.  0 { - cl; group name 1 { - uu; unused - reserved 2 { - uu; unused - reserved 3 { - cl; text documentation |  |  |  |
| $c_{41}$                    | bluu        | Like $c_{39}$   |  |  |  |
| $c_{42}$                    | bluu        | Like $c_{40}$   |  |  |  |
|                             |             |   |  |  |  |
| $c_n$                       |             | Like $c_{n-2}$  |  |  |  |

Table 6: jgroups.ijf file component layout

jsuites.ijf contains test suite definitions and test suite metadata. The component layout of jsuites.ijf is given in Table 7 on page 53.

|                                 | jsuites.ijf |   |  |  |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|--|--|
| Component Hungarian Description |             |   |  |  |
| $c_0$                           | blnl        | Suite count and last directory change.  |  |  |
| $c_1 \rightarrow c_3$           |             | Reserved.   |  |  |
|                                 |             | Main inverted items, $c_4 \rightarrow c_{11}$ have the same length.   |  |  |
| $c_4$                           | blcl        | Suite list (main index 1).  |  |  |
| $c_5$                           | il          | Suite components (main index 2).  |  |  |
| $c_6$                           |             | Reserved to match jwords.ijf.   |  |  |
| $c_7$                           | fl          | Last put date list yyyymmdd. fd (fractional day).   |  |  |
| $c_8$                           | fl          | Creation put list yyyymmdd.fd (fractional day).   |  |  |
| $c_9 \rightarrow c_{10}$        |             | Reserved.   |  |  |
| $c_{11}$                        | blcl        | Short suite explanations.   |  |  |
| $c_{12} \rightarrow c_{38}$     |             | Reserved.   |  |  |
|                                 |             | The remaining component pairs contain suite data. The suite names match the entries in the suite index $c_4$ list.  Suite definition.     |  |  |
| $c_{39}$                        | bluu        | 0 { - cl; suite name<br>1 { - cl; suite prefix script<br>2 { - blcl; suite content list   |  |  |
| $c_{40}$                        | bluu        | Suite documentation and other.  0 { - cl; suite name 1 { - uu; unused - reserved 2 { - uu; unused - reserved 3 { - cl; text documentation |  |  |
| $c_{41}$                        | bluu        | Like $c_{39}$   |  |  |
| $c_{42}$                        | bluu        | Like $c_{40}$   |  |  |
|                                 |             |   |  |  |
| $c_n$                           |             | Like $c_{n-2}$  |  |  |

Table 7: jsuites.ijf file component layout

# 7.6 Macros File — jmacros.ijf

jmacros.ijs is a binary component jfile.

jmacros.ijf contains macro script definitions and macro script metadata. The component layout of jmacros.ijf is given in Table 8 on page 54.

# 7.7 Uses File — juses.ijf

juses.ijs is a binary component jfile.

juses.ijf contains word references: see globs subsection 5.15, on page 28.

| jmacros.ijf                 |      |   |  |  |
|-----------------------------|------|---|--|--|
| Component Hungaria          |      | Description   |  |  |
| $c_0$                       | blnl | Macro count and last directory change.  |  |  |
| $c_1 \rightarrow c_3$       |      | Reserved.   |  |  |
|                             |      | Main inverted items, $c_4 \rightarrow c_{11}$ have the same length.                 |  |  |
| $c_4$                       | blcl | Macro list (main index 1).  |  |  |
| $c_5$                       | il   | Macro components (main index 2).  |  |  |
| $c_6$                       |      | Reserved to match jwords.ijf.   |  |  |
| $c_7$                       | fl   | Last put date list yyyymmdd.fd (fractional day).                                    |  |  |
| $c_8$                       | fl   | Creation put list yyyymmdd. fd (fractional day).                                    |  |  |
| C9                          | fl   | Macro size in bytes.  |  |  |
| $c_{10}$                    |      | Reserved.   |  |  |
| $c_{11}$                    | blcl | Short macro explanations.   |  |  |
| $c_{12} \rightarrow c_{38}$ |      | Reserved.   |  |  |
|                             |      |   |  |  |
|                             |      | The remaining component pairs contain macro data. The macro names match the entries |  |  |
|                             |      | in the macro index $c_4$ list.  |  |  |
|                             |      | Macro definition.   |  |  |
| c <sub>39</sub>             | blcl |   |  |  |
| 00                          |      | 0 { - cl; macro name  |  |  |
|                             |      | 1 { - c1; macro script  Macro documentation and other.                              |  |  |
|                             |      | Macro documentation and other.  |  |  |
|                             |      | 0 { - cl ; macro name   |  |  |
| $c_{40}$                    | bluu | 1 { - uu; unused - reserved   |  |  |
|                             |      | 2 { - uu; unused - reserved   |  |  |
|                             |      | 3 { - cl; text documentation  |  |  |
| $c_{41}$                    | blcl | Like c <sub>39</sub>  |  |  |
| C42                         | bluu | Like c <sub>40</sub>  |  |  |
|                             |      |   |  |  |
| $c_n$                       |      | Like $c_{n-2}$  |  |  |

Table 8: jmacros.ijf file component layout

JOD DIRECTORY AND FILE LAYOUTS

Table 9: juses.ijf file component layout



#### **A JOD Distribution**

JOD is distributed as a *J addon*. You can instal JOD using the *J package manager*. The JOD distribution is broken into two packages:

- 1. jod: This is the only package that must be installed to run JOD. It contains JOD system code, documentation and other supporting files.
- 2. jodsource: This addon is single zip file containing three serialized JOD dictionary dumps. JOD dictionary dumps are J script files that can rebuild JOD dictionaries. Dump files are the best way to distribute dictionary code since they are independent of J binary representations. The jodsource addon contains.

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- (a) joddev.ijs development put dictionary
- (b) jod.ijs main JOD source and documentation
- (c) utils.ijs common utilities



# **B** JOD Classes

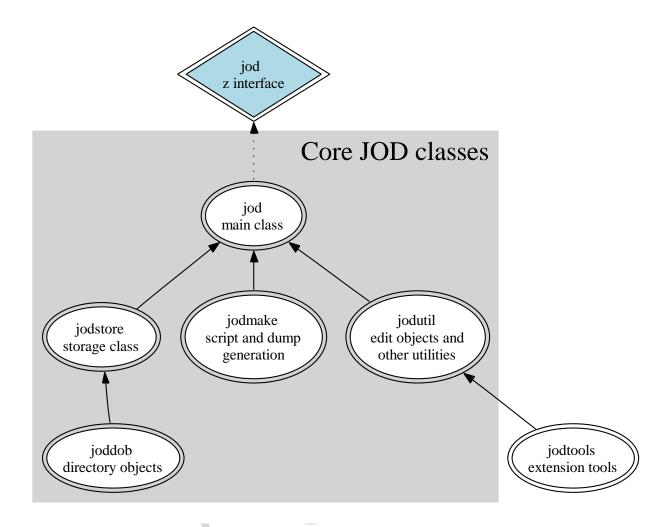


Figure 4: This diagram shows how JOD classes are related. JOD classes are are loaded into J locales. The arrows indicate how J names are resolved.

## **C** Reference Path

JOD groups and suites, (see grp on page 29), are defined with respect to a particular path. This path is called the *reference path*. The reference path is stored when the first put dictionary group or suite is defined. Group and suite generation with make, mls and lg, (see pages 34, 35, 33), check the current path against the reference path. If the paths do not match an error is returned.

Reference paths display current dictionary names but the path is stored as a unique list of extended dictionary identification numbers: DIDNUMs. On Windows systems the DIDNUM is based on GUIDs. DIDNUMs insure reference paths are unique.

A reference path can only be reset by clearing the put dictionary path, opening desired dictionaries and recreating a group or suite: see dpset on page 22.

# **D** JOD Argument Codes

The left, and some right, arguments of JOD verbs are specified with *object*, *qualifier* and *option* codes. Object codes are typically the first argument code while options and qualifiers usually occupy the second and third positions. Options and qualifiers are sometimes negative. Negative values modify codes: see tables 10, 11 and 12 on pages 59, 59 and 60.

| Object Codes |                       |                |   |  |  |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|---|--|--|
| Noun         | Noun Code Use Example |                |   |  |  |
| WORD         | 0                     | word code      | 0 dnl '' NB. list all words on path                     |  |  |
| TEST         | 1                     | test case code | 1 put 'test';'test code' NB. store test                 |  |  |
| GROUP        | 2                     | group code     | 2 put 'name';'group header' NB. store group header      |  |  |
| SUITE        | 3                     | suite code     | 3 grp 'suite' NB. get suite members, list of test names |  |  |
| MACRO        | 4                     | macro code     | 4 disp 'test' NB. display macro                         |  |  |

Table 10: JOD Object Codes

| Qualifier Codes |      |                        |   |  |
|-----------------|------|------------------------|---|--|
| Noun            | Code | Use                    | Example   |  |
| DEFAULT         | 7    | default action         | 0 7 get 'this' NB. default behaviour                      |  |
| EXPLAIN         | 8    | short explanation text | 0 8 put 'name';'explain name'                             |  |
| DOCUMENT        | 9    | documentation text     | 2 9 put 'group';'very long group document'                |  |
| NVTABLE         | 10   | name value table       | 0 10 get }. dnl '' NB. return all words in table          |  |
| REFERENCE       | 11   | reference code         | 11 del 'earthdist' NB. delete word references             |  |
| JSCRIPT         | 21   | J script code          | 4 1 21 dnl 'POST_' NB. list postprocessors                |  |
| LATEX           | 22   | LaTeX text code        | 4 get }. 4 3 22 dnl 'TEX' NB. get LaTeX macros            |  |
| HTML            | 23   | HTML text code         | 4 put 'htmltxt';23;' <a>hello world</a> ' NB. store html  |  |
| XML             | 24   | XML text code          | 4 put 'xmltxt';24;'baby step xml' NB. store xml           |  |
| TEXT            | 25   | ASCII text code        | 4 3 25 dnl 'EPS' NB. texts ending with EPS                |  |
| UTF8            | 26   | Unicode UTF8 text      | 4 put 'UTF8TEXT';UTF8_ajod_;(8 u: 4 u: 56788 4578,65+i.5) |  |

Table 11: JOD Qualifier Codes

## release 0.5.1

The meaning of negative option and qualifier codes depends on the word. For dnl a negative option requests a *path order list*.

| Negative Codes |                 |  |  |  |  |
|----------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
| Code           | Use Example     |  |  |  |  |
| _1             | path order list | 0 _1 dnl '' NB. path order list of words                           |  |  |  |
| _2             | path order list | 1 _2 dnl 'boo' NB. path order list of test names containging 'boo' |  |  |  |

Table 12: JOD Negative Codes



# E JOD startup.ijs entries

startup.ijs is J's optional user startup script. JOD uses startup.ijs to store load scripts generated by mls: see subsection 5.24 on page 35.

```
NB. WARNING: JOD managed section do not edit!
NB.<JOD_Load_Scripts>
buildpublic_j_ 0 : 0
jodtester c:\joddictionaries\602\joddev\script\jodtester
bstats c:\joddictionaries\602\utils\script\bstats
remdots c:\joddictionaries\602\utils\script\remdots
wordformation c:\joddictionaries\602\utils\script\wordformation
xmlutils c:\joddictionaries\602\utils\script\xmlutils
analystgraphs c:\joddictionaries\602\cbh\script\analystgraphs
flickrAPI c:\joddictionaries\602\flickrutdev\script\flickrAPI
)
NB.</JOD_Load_Scripts>
```



# F jodprofile.ijs

jodprofile.ijs is an optional user profile script; it runs after JOD loads and can be used to customize your working environment. The following is an example profile script.

```
NB.*jodprofile s-- JOD dictionary profile.
NB. An example JOD profile script. Save this script in
NB.
NB. ~addons\general\jod\
NB. with the name jodprofile.ijs
NB.
NB. This script is executed after all dictionary objects have
NB. been created. It can be used to set up your default JOD
NB. working environment.
NB. WARNING: Do not dpset 'RESETME' if more than one JOD task is
NB. active. If only one task is active RESETME's prevent annoying
NB. already open messages that frequently result from forgetting
NB. to close dictionaries upon exiting J.
NB. set white space preservation on
9!:41 [ 1
NB. do not reset if you are running more than one JOD instance
dpset 'RESETME'
NB. project shortcuts - use explicit
NB. defintions so it's easy to reset the group/suite
ag_z_=: 3 : 'JODGRP addgrp y'
dg_z_=: 3 : 'JODGRP delgrp y'
NB. referenced group words not in group
nx_z=: 3 : '(allrefs \}. gn) -. gn=. grp JODGRP'
NB. short help for group words
hg_z_=: [: hlpnl [: }. grp
NB. regenerate put dictionary word cross references
reref_z_=: 3 : '(n,.s) #~ -.;0{"1 s=.0 globs&>n=.}.revo'''' [ y'
NB. open working dictionaries and run project macros
NB. set up current project (1 suppress IO, 0 or elided display)
NB. 1 rm 'prjThumbutilsSetup' [ smoutput od ;: 'imagedev image utils'
NB. 1 rm 'prjjod' [ smoutput od ;:'joddev jod utils'
```

## G jodparms.ijs

jodparms.ijs is read when the master file jmaster.ijf is created and is used to set dictionary parameters.

Dictionary parameters are distributed to dictionary files and runtime objects. New parameters can be added by editing jodparms.ijs and recreating the master file. The last few lines of the following example show how to add COPYRIGHT and MYPARAMTER.

When a parameter is added its value will appear in the directory objects of all dictionaries but will only be dpset'able in new dictionaries.

To change default master dictionary parameters:

- 1. Exit J
- 2. Delete the files

```
~addons\general\jod\jmaster.ijf
~addons\general\jod\jod.ijn]
```

3. Edit

```
~addons\general\jod\jodparms.ijs
```

4. Restart J and reload JOD with

```
load 'general/jod'
```

```
NB.*jodparms s-- default dictionary parameters.
NB. This file is used to set the default dictionary parameters
NB. table in the master file. When a new dictionary is created
NB. the parameters in the master file are used to specify the
NB. parameters for a particular dictionary. The verb (dpset) can
        used to
                  modify parameter settings
                                                in
                                                      individual
NB. dictionaries. Master file parameters can only be changed by
NB. editing this file and recreating the master file.
NB.
NB. WARNING: all the parameters currently listed are required by
NB. the JOD system. If you remove any of them JOD will crash. You
NB. can safely add additional parameters but you cannot safely
NB. remove current parameters.
MASTERPARMS =: 0 : 0
NB. The format of this parameter file is:
       jname ; (type) description ; value
NB.
NB.
NB.
        jname is a valid J name
```

```
(type) description documents the parameter - type is required
NB.
          only (+integer) is currently executed other types will
NB.
          be passed as character lists (see dptable).
NB .
NB.
       value is an executable J expression that produces a value
PUTFACTOR ; (+integer) words stored in one loop pass (10<y<2048)
                                                                       ; 100
GETFACTOR ; (+integer) words retrieved in one loop pass (10<y<2048)
                                                                       ; 250
COPYFACTOR; (+integer) components copied in one loop pass (1<y<240)
DUMPFACTOR; (+integer) objects dumped in one loop pass (1<y<240)
DOCUMENTWIDTH; (+integer) width of justified document text (20<y<255); 61
NB. Any added parameters are stored in the master file when
NB. created and distributed to JOD directory objects.
NB. WARNING: when defining J expressions be careful about the ; character
NB. the JOD code (dptable) that parses this string is rudimentary.
NB. VISITOR; (character) executed by directory object visitor; dropdir 0
NB. COPYRIGHT; (character); All rights reserved
NB. MYPARAMETER; (+integer) the answer; 42
```

# **H** Hungarian Notation for J

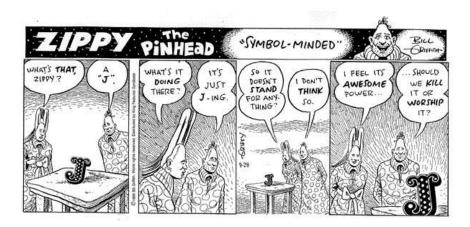


Figure 5: Zippy isn't the only one challenged by the awesome power of J.

#### H.1 Whither Hungarian

J is a *dynamically typed* language! What this means is that you do not have to declare the types of arguments and that types can change during program execution. Discarding the type declaration machinery found in other programming languages simplifies J coding but it can impose its own problems. Without declarations it's not always clear *what is a valid argument*. J does not require that you provide hints and, in J's *tacit* case, it does not even require that you provide arguments! Given the language's terse nature this quickly leads to an incomprehensible style that J detractors have dubbed *line noise*.

To distinguish my J code from line noise I have adapted a documentation style known as Hungarian notation. Hungarian notation inspires devotion and disgust. Many swear by it and many swear at it. For me a convention is worthwhile if it *helps me* understand code. The style outlined here helps me understand and maintain J code. It might help you too.

# **H.2** J Noun Types

There are two broad classes of arguments in J: nouns and verbs. Nouns are data; they correspond to arguments found in other programming languages. Verbs are programs. J adverbs and conjunctions take verb arguments<sup>8</sup> and roughly correspond to the higher order functions found in languages like LISP and Scheme. J explicit definition syntax reserves the characters x y m n u v for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Adverbs and conjunctions also take noun arguments.

arguments: see Table 13 on page 66.9 The Hungarian notation described here focuses on noun arguments, (x and y), because they are the most common.

| J Explicit Arguments |                                       |  |  |  |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| х                    | left verb noun argument               |  |  |  |
| У                    | right verb noun argument              |  |  |  |
| m                    | left conjunction noun argument        |  |  |  |
| n                    | right conjunction noun argument       |  |  |  |
| u                    | left adverb/conjunction verb argument |  |  |  |
| v                    | right conjunction verb argument       |  |  |  |

Table 13: Characters reserved for J *explicit* definition arguments. *Tacit* definitions do not directly refer to arguments.

To succinctly describe a J noun you need to be mindful of:

- Type
- Rank
- Boxing

**J types** are congruent to simple types in other languages. The standard J utility verb datatype enumerates primitive J noun types.

**Rank** has a precise technical meaning in J but in this context it can be loosely thought of as array dimension. Typical ranks in J are:

• Single numbers like 42 and characters 'a' are called atoms. They have rank 0.10

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Earlier versions of J used x. y. m. n. u. v. for arguments. This inflected syntax has been deprecated. <sup>10</sup> Rank 0, or 0-dimensional objects are often missing in programming languages and their absence leads to mountains of ugly special case code. J is more than a programming language. It's one of the most comprehensive and rigorous ways known to *think* about arrays.

| J Native Type Prefixes |                 |             |  |  |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--|--|
| Prefix                 | Native Type     | (3!:0) code |  |  |
| р                      | boolean         | 1           |  |  |
| С                      | literal         | 2           |  |  |
| i                      | integer         | 4           |  |  |
| f                      | floating        | 8           |  |  |
| j                      | complex         | 16          |  |  |
| b                      | boxed           | 32          |  |  |
| Х                      | extended        | 64          |  |  |
| R                      | rational        | 128         |  |  |
| SP                     | sparse boolean  | 1024        |  |  |
| SC                     | sparse literal  | 2048        |  |  |
| SI                     | sparse integer  | 4096        |  |  |
| SF                     | sparse floating | 8192        |  |  |
| SJ                     | sparse complex  | 16384       |  |  |
| SB                     | sparse boxed    | 32768       |  |  |
| s                      | symbol          | 65536       |  |  |
| W                      | unicode         | 131072      |  |  |

| Generic Prefixes |                                    |  |
|------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Prefix           | Description                        |  |
| n                | any numeric type including boolean |  |
| N                | any extended numeric type          |  |
| u                | universal - any J type             |  |
| z                | empty - has at least one 0 axis    |  |

(b) Generic prefixes

Figure 6: Hungarian type prefixes.

- Lists like 1 2 3 and 'characters' correspond to 1-dimensional arrays in most languages and have rank 1.
- Tables like i. 3 2 are 2-dimensional arrays and have rank 2.
- n dimensional arrays have rank n.

**Boxing** is structural. J nouns are either boxed or simple. A simple noun has one of the types, (excluding boxed), listed by the datatype verb. To mix types in a J array you must box.

```
NB. you must box < to mix types in J arrays
(<u: 'unicode me'),(<i. 2 3),<'types to mix'</pre>
```

# **H.3** Hungarian Noun Descriptions

To describe J nouns I use the following rules:<sup>11</sup>

1. For basic descriptions I use *TypeRank[Name]* where *Type* comes from Figure 6 on page 67, *Rank* is one of:

<sup>(</sup>a) J native type prefixes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>As in the film *Pirates of the Caribbean* these rules are more like *guidelines!* 

```
a atom - rank 0
l list - rank 1
t table - rank 2
[n] general rank n
```

and *Name* is an optional descriptive name. The *TypeRank* prefix uses the case of Figure 6 on page 67 and *Name* begins with an uppercase letter.

```
paSwitch boolean (proposition) Switch
ilColors integer list Colors
ctDocument character table Document
jt complex numerix table or matrix
s[3]Xref rank 3 array of Xref symbols
Rl extended rational list
bt boxed table
SClRare sparse character list Rare
wlPersian unicode list Persian
ztHolder empty table Holder
ulWhatever universal list - any J list
universal universal - any J argument
```

2. For boxed nouns of depth one I use a *TypeRankTypeRank[Name]* where the right most pairing describes the boxed types. Boxed nouns of depth one occur often.

```
blcl boxed list of character lists
blit boxed list of integer tables
bljtCoord boxed list of complex tables
blul boxed list any lists
b[3]s[4]Maps boxed rank 3 array of rank 4 symbol array Maps
```

3. For more complex nouns, when it's helpful to expose some external structure, I use a mixture of more basic noun descriptions and J syntax.

4. Finally, when more than one description is needed I separate individual descriptions with the or symbol  $\lor$  and use as many consecutive lines as required. 12



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>The ∨ symbol was chosen because it falls outside of J's ASCII vocabulary and suggests "either-or."

dyadic put argument description see page 40
iaObject put clName \( \) blclNames \( \) btNvalues
clLocale put clName \( \) blclNames \( \) btNvalues
(iaObject,iaQualifier) put clName \( \) blclNames
(iaObject,iaQualifier) put clName btNvalues

dyadic dnl argument description see page 19
iaObject dnl zl V clPstr
(iaObject,iaOption) dnl zl V clPstr
(iaObject,iaOption,iaQualifier) dnl zl
(iaObject,iaOption,iaQualifier) dnl clPstr



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