

REXX programming for the z/OS programmer

Session #14019

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Abstract and Speaker



• Rexx is a powerful yet relatively simple High Level language that provides great flexibility and power on the z platform as well as many other platforms.

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Agenda

The Start of a rexx program

Comments

Variables

Operators

Conditional Expressions

Iterations, iterations, iterations...

SIGNAL, EXIT, CALL, RETURN & LABEL

Functions (built-in and user defined)

PARSE

Stacks and Queus

Environments

Execio

Questions





How to Start a Rexx Program

The first line of a REXX program must be a comment and must contain the Word or at least the letters REXX

Ex:

VALID:

/* THIS IS MY FIRST REXX PROGRAM /* /* REXX */

NOT VALID

/* This does not

Count as valid REXX program start */





Comments

Comments in REXX can start at any position and end in any position.

Comment Start is a /*

Comment End is an */

Careful with embedded comments.

USE HILITE Language: #14 (for REXX) and Coloring 3 (Both IF and DO Logic)





Variables

Variable names can consist of Alpha, Numerics, Special characters and DBCS Characters when OPTIONS ETMODE is specified.

Periods should only be used in STEM Variables

Variables names should NOT BE: RC, SIGL or RESULT

Variables ARE NOT strongly typed and are NOT CASE SENSITIVE.

STEM Variables are variables that like arrays can have multiple values. The STEM of the variable can actually be anything, usually a number where BY CONVENTION The 0th element contains the number of elements in the variable.



Stem Variables

When a stem is used as the target of an assignment, *all possible* compound variables whose names begin with that stem receive the new value, whether they previously had a value or not. Following the assignment, a reference to any compound symbol with that stem returns the new value until another value is assigned to the stem or to the individual variable.

Since Stem variables can use lots of available storage, DROP them when your done with them.

For example:

hole. = "empty"		\leftarrow Initializ	ed all elements of the stem to "empty"
hole.9 =	"full"		
say Drop	hole.1 hole. empty	hole.9 ← An exa full	hole.anything ample of dropping the variable. empty





OPERATORS - Arithmetic

- + Add
- Subtract
- * Multiply
- / Divide
- % Integer Divide
- // Modulo Integer divide and return whole remainder
- ** Power

Order or Parenthesis, Operations, etc all apply as one would expect.

EX: Sum2Nums = Num1 + Num2





OPERATORS – Logical or Boolean

&	And
I	Or
&&	Exclusive Or
١	Not (Logical Negation) or caret or

Order or Parenthesis, Operations, etc all apply as one would expect. Logical expressions return a true (1) or a false (0) value

 Ex: A = 0 and B = 1

 (A & B)
 0 False
 (B & & B)
 0 False

 (A | B)
 1 True
 (\A)
 1 True





OPERATORS – Comparison / Equality

=	Equal	<>	Same as \=
==	Strictly Equal	>=	GT or Equal To
\=	Not Equal	<=	LT or Equal To

- Strictly Not Equal \== \<
- GT >
- LT <

- Not Less Than
 - 1> Not Greater Than
 - >>= Strictly greater than or equal to
- ****<<, ¬<< Strictly NOT less than
- <= Strictly less than or equal to
- >>, ¬>> Strictly NOT greater than

Strictly vs. Not Strictly When two expressions are strictly equal, everything including the blanks. Otherwise with an = 'word' is

equal to 'word' but not true with ==.

Note: I have seen documented that = also ignores case. This is not true to my



OPERATORS – Concatenation

BlankConcatenates terms and places one blank between them.Multiple blanks becomes a single blank.

|| or abuttal Concatenates terms without a blank. Use || as it is easier to read and debug later. Careful of | vs. ||

outputsay "first" "second"say "first"||"second"say "first"||"second"firstsecondsay "first""second"firstsecond



FX:



OPERATORS – Precedence

Unary operators before Binary Operators

Binary Operators by precedence

Equal Operators Left to Right

Prefix Operations

Power

Multiple and Divide

Add or Subtract





Conditional Expressions – IF/THEN/ELSE

Non compound instructions:

IF expression THEN

instruction

ELSE

instruction

For compound instructions: IF expression THEN Do instruction-1 instruction-2 End

Nested IF/THEN/ELSE's are allowed. Make sure to match each IF with an ELSE and each DO with an END. Line up the DO and ENDs and have hilite turned on For both IF and DO Logic.





Conditional Expressions - Select

SELECT

WHEN expression-1 THEN instruction-1 WHEN expression-2 THEN instruction-2 WHEN expression-3 THEN instruction-3 OTHERWISE

instruction(s)

END

Make sure you END your SELECT. Expressions should evaluate to T or F.

For THENs, multiple instructions can be used but must be encapsulated in DO End.

For Otherwise, all instructions until the END associated with the SELECT are WHEN expression-1 THEN instruction-1





Iteration, iteration, Iteration: DO

The DO is the simplest form of Iteration:

DO 2

say ' RED SOX RULE – NOT'

End

Result:

RED SOX RULE – NOT

RED SOX RULE – NOT

Btw, Say works online and in batch. Online to terminal, batch to SYSTSPRT





Iteration, iteration, Iteration: DO Controlled

The DO is the simplest form of Iteration:

DO i = 1 to 3	DO i=1 to 10 by 3
say i	say i
END	END
1	1
2	4
3	7
	10



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The DO in use with a STEM variable

The DO loop is great for filling or displaying STEM variables...

Parse arg n

Stem.0 = N

DO i=1 to N

Stem.i = i

END

Do i=1 to stem.0

Say stem.i

End

Outputs numbers 1 to N where N is passed in via call or exec.





Iteration, iteration, Iteration: DO FOREVER

The DO FOREVER is a loop that will continue until the LEAVE or EXIT

statement are encountered

DO FOREVER

Pull Var1

if Var1 = 'STOP' then Leave

say Var1

END

Echoes output until stop or STOP is entered.

LEAVE tells Program to leave the loop, EXIT ends a rexx program

PULL will uppercase any value entered. Use PARSE PULL to avoid this if





Iteration, iteration, Iteration: DO WHILE

The DO WHILE is a loop that will continue WHILE the condition is TRUE

Var1 = ''

DO While Var1 <> 'STOP'

Pull Var1

say Var1

END

Echoes output until stop or STOP is entered but will echo STOP as well





Iteration, iteration, Iteration: DO UNTIL

The DO UNTIL is a loop that will continue until the condition is TRUE

Var1 = '' DO UNTIL Var1 = 'STOP'

Pull Var1

say Var1

END

Echoes output until stop or STOP is entered but will echo STOP as well

Note: Loops can be nested and nested and nested and nested





SIGNAL, EXIT, CALL, RETURN & LABEL

- SIGNAL causes an unconditional branch to another instruction. Signal should really only be used with events.
- EXIT Causes an exec to unconditionally end and return to where it was invoked. EXIT can return a value to caller as well via the variable RESULT
- CALL causes control to be passed to an internal or external subroutine. Internal subroutines are referenced by a LABEL
- RETURN returns control back to the calling exec and may return a value as well.
- LABEL Symbolic name followed by a colon.





REXX Built in Functions

Rexx has a number of built in functions like most languages. See Appendix A For explanation of each.

Arithmetic (ABS,DIGITS,FORM,FUZZ,MAX,MIN,RANDOM,SIGN,TRUNC) Comparison (Compare, Datatype, Symbol) Conversion (B2X, C2D, C2X, D2C, D2X, X2B, X2C, X2D) Format (Center, Copies, Format, Justify, Left, Right, Space) String (Abbrev, Delstr, Delword, Find, Index, Insert, Lastpos Length, Overlay, Pos, Reverse, Strip, Substr, Subword, Translate, Verify, Word, Wordindex, Wordlength, words) Misc (Address, Arg, Bitand, Bitor, Bitxor, Condition, Date, Errortext, Externals, Linesize, Queued, Sourceline, Time, Trace, Userid, Value, Xrange)





Writing your own Subroutine

Rexx allows subroutines to act as either a procedure or true function.

A Function is a callable routine that calculates and MUST return a value

A Subroutine is a set of code that accomplishes a task.

You can pass up to 20 arguments into a subroutine but return only ONE (Stored in variable called RESULT).

A Subroutine suffixed with the word PROCEDURE will protect the variables in and make them all local variables. This can be changed with

A PROCEDURE EXPOSE, where the exposed variables are not local Ex:

subroutine1:

Subroutine2: Procedure

Subroutine3: Procedure Expose Answer





Keyword Instructions

A **keyword instruction** is one or more clauses, the first of which starts with a keyword that identifies the instruction. Some keyword instructions affect the flow of control, while others provide services to the programmer.

See Appendix B for a list of Keyword Instructions





Writing your own Subroutine Consider the following examples:

N1=5N1 = 5N1=5 $N_{2=10}$ N2 = 10N2 = 10Call subr call subr Call Subr Say ans say ans say ans Exit Exit Exit Subr: Subr: PROCEDURE Subr: PROCEDURE EXPOSE ANS Ans = n1 + n2Ans = n1 + n2n1=50 Return Return n2 = 100ans= n1+n2Return

Output:

15 Error Line: Ans=n1 +n2 150



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Pass Values into Subroutines

You can pass values into a Subroutine on the CALL statement by specifying up to 20 arguments separated by commas.

You place the passed variables/values into new variables via the ARG function, either with an ARG or definitive assignment X = ARG(1) or through the use of ARG(1) as a variable in the subroutine.

Ex:

Call perimeter L,W

Say "Perimeter is: " Result

Exit

Perimeter: Procedure

Arg Length, width

Return 2*length + 2* width

Call perimeter L,W Say "Perimeter is: " Result Exit Perimeter: Procedure return 2*Arg(1) + 2*Arg(2)



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Pass Values into a Function

You can invoke a true FUNCTION without a CALL statement and again pass up to 20 arguments separated by commas. In this case encapsulated by ()'s. You place the passed variables/values into new variables via the ARG function, either with an ARG or definitive assignment X = ARG(1) or through the use of ARG(1) as a variable in the subroutine.

Ex:

```
X = perimeter(I,w)
```

```
Say "Perimeter is: " x
```

Exit

Perimeter: Procedure

Arg Length, width

```
Return 2*length + 2* width
```

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Say "Perimeter is: "perimeter(I,w) Exit Perimeter: Procedure return 2*Arg(1) + 2*Arg(2)





REXX is an EXCELLENT language for parsing. It makes otherwise difficult Parsing scenarios easier.

PARSE PULL reads input from data stack or terminal and assigns them to variables w/o Modification. PULL otherwise will uppercase
 PARSE PULL A B C
 will take three values from stack or user and place into
 Variables A B and C
 PARSE ARG reads variables from calling routine and assigns them to variable w/o Modification. ARG otherwise will uppercase

a='This' b='is'





•••• in Boston

The PARSE Command

PARSE ARG	reads variables	s from calling routine and assigns th	ıem
	to variable w/o	Modification. ARG otherwise will u	ppercase
Var1 = 'This'		Var1 = 'This'	
Var2 = 'is'		Var2 = 'is'	
Var3 = 'Passed'		Var3 = 'Passed	
Call subr Var1 \	/ar2 Var3	Call subr Var1 Var2 var3	
Exit		Exit	
Subr: Procedur	e	Subr: Procedure	
Parse Arg s1 s2	2 s3	Arg s1 s2 s3	
Say s1 s2 s3		Say s1 s2 s3	
Return		Return	
This is Passed		THIS IS PASSED	SHAR

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PARSE VAR Parses a variable into one or more variables that follow it

ParsedString = "This is the String to be Parsed"

to

PARSE VAR ParsedString X1 X2 X3 X4 X5.

Say X1 This

Say X2 is

Say X3 the

Say X4 String

Say X5

Exit

The period at the end or anywhere in the parse variables is used as a

Placeholder. It is a good practice when not parsing all data or potential data

in a variable to end the parse with a period.



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PARSE VAR Separator

Parses a variable into one or more variables by the Separator

ParsedString = "This is the String to be Parsed"

PARSE VAR ParsedString X1 X2 "be" X5.

Say X1 This

Say X2 is

Say X5 Parsed

Exit





PARSE VAR (Separator)

Parses a variable into one or more variables by a variable Separator .

ParsedString = "This is the String to be Parsed"

X4= "be"

PARSE VAR ParsedString X1 X2 (X4) X5.

Say X1 This	S
-------------	---

Say X2 is

Say X5	Parsed
Say X5	Parsed

Exit





PARSE VAR Number

Parses a variable into one or more variables by the nth

character in the VARIABLE.

ParsedString = "This is the String to be Parsed"

PARSE VAR ParsedString X1 X2 =13 X5.

Say X1 This

Say X2 is the

Say X5 String

Exit

Note:

This can be used to split a string.





PARSE VALUE WITH

Parses a value into a set of variables using the blank as a

separator

Parse Value "This is the String to be parsed" with X1 X2 X3 X4 X5 . X6

Say x1	This
Say x2	is
Say x3	the
Say x4	String
Say x5	to
Say x6	parsed
• /	





REXX in TSO/E uses an expandable data structure called a *data stack* to store information. The data stack combines characteristics of a conventional stack and queue.

Stacks and queues are similar types of data structures used to temporarily hold data items (elements) until needed. When elements are needed, they are removed from the top of the data structure.

The basic difference between a stack and a queue is where elements are added.

Elements are added to the top of a stack and to the bottom of a queue.





PUSH - puts one item of data on the top of the data stack. There is virtually no limit to the length of the data item.

elem1 = 'String 1 for the data stack'

PUSH elem1

QUEUE - puts one item of data on the bottom of the data stack. Again, there is virtually no limit to the length of the data item.

elemA = 'String A for the data stack' QUEUE elemA





To remove data elements from the Stack we use PULL

PULL stackitem SAY stackitem

If you do not want the values uppercased then use:

PARSE PULL stackitem SAY stackitem





When an exec calls a routine (subroutine or function) and both the exec and the routine use the data stack, the stack becomes a way to share information. However, execs and routines that do not purposely share information from the data stack, might unintentionally do so and end in error. To help prevent this, TSO/E provides the MAKEBUF command that creates a buffer, which you can think of as an extension to the stack, and the DROPBUF command that deletes the buffer and all elements within it.

Although the buffer does not prevent the PULL instruction from accessing elements placed on the stack before the buffer was created, it is a way for an exec to create a temporary extension to the stack. The buffer allows an exec to: Use the QUEUE instruction to insert elements in FIFO order on a stack that already contains elements.

Have temporary storage that it can delete easily with the DROPBUF command. An exec can create multiple buffers before dropping them. Every time MAKEBUF creates a new buffer, the REXX special variable RC is set with the number of the buffer created. Thus if an exec issues three MAKEBUF commands, RC is set to 3 after the third MAKEBUF command



Sometime a STACK is NOT meant to be shared. If this is the case then 'NEWSTACK' is better suited as opposed to MAKEBUF

To protect elements on the data stack, you can create a new data stack with the TSO/E REXX NEWSTACK command.

Any routine that uses 'NEWSTACK' should issue a DELSTACK for each stack created

The DELSTACK command removes the most recently created data stack. If no stack was previously created with the NEWSTACK command, DELSTACK removes all the elements from the original stack. (THIS CAN HURT)





Environments

Rexx can run in a number of different environments. Here is a sample of them **The environment you are running in dictates the commands that are available.**

You can move between environments using the ADDRESS command

ADDRESS TSO Will put you in a TSO environment (assuming one is available)

ADDRESS ISPEXEC Will put you into an ISPF environment

ADDRESS ISREDIT Execute a macro

ADDRESS MVS Will put you into an MVS environment

ADDRESS SYSCALL Unix commands.

ADDRESS SH Unix Shell

ADDRESS() Will return you your current environment





EXECIO DISKR DISKRU

EXECIO

Is a method to read z/OS PDS members and Sequential files. DISKR Open and read from a file (read only) DISKRU Open and read from a file (update allowed) DISKW Open and write to a file

"EXECIO xxx DISKR(U) INDD yyy (FINIS"

(OPEN" (STEM stem."

(LIFO"

(FIFO" (SKIP"

- is the number of lines to READ. * means read to EOF XXX
- is the starting line a which to begin READING from (optional, defaults) **VVV** to either beginning of file or last line read +1)
- INDD FILE DD to read from
- **OPEN** dataset and position before first record OPEN
- STEM Specifies the stem variable into which the records will be placed. If not specified, records will be placed onto the Datastack
- FINIS Close the dataset after reading

LIFO, FIFO and SKIP – PUSH or QUEUE onto STACK or SKIP xxx lines In Boston Complete your sessions evaluation online at SHARE.org/BostonEval



EXECIO DISKW

EXECIO

Is a method to write to z/OS PDS members and Sequential file

DISKW Open and write to a file

"EXECIO xxx DISKW OUTDD

- (FINIS" (OPEN" (STEM stem."
- xxx is the number of lines to Write. * means write all from stack or STEM
- OUTDD File DD to write to
- **OPEN OPEN** dataset and position before first record
- STEM Specifies the stem variable from which records are read from and written to the file.

If not specified, records will be placed onto the Datastack

FINIS Close the dataset after writing. Forces i/o completion.





Quick Example

```
"ALLOC FI(INDD) DA('my.input.dataset') SHR REUSE"
"ALLOC FI(OUTDD) DA('my.output.dataset') SHR REUSE"
Stem.0 = 0
Myrc = 0
                                      /* assume 0 return code
                                                                       */
Execio * DISKR INDD (Stem stem." /* read entire file into stem. Variable*/
If rc > 4 then call ERRORRTN "READING FILE"
Exectio * DISKW OUTFF (STEM stem." /* writes entire STEM to file
                                                                        */
If rc > 4 then call ERRORTN "WRITING FILE"
Exit:
                                       /* closes files
                                                                        */
  "EXECIO 0 DISKW OUTDD (FINIS"
  "EXECIO 0 DISKR INDD (FINIS"
EXIT
ERRORTN:
ARG S1
say "An Error occurred during "S1
 myrc = 12
 return myrc
             /* never executed*/
Return
```



Questions?





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Appendix A



Function	Description
ABS	Returns the absolute value of the input number.
DIGITS	Returns the current setting of NUMERIC DIGITS.
FORM	Returns the current setting of NUMERIC FORM.
FUZZ	Returns the current setting of NUMERIC FUZZ.
MAX	Returns the largest number from the list specified, formatted according to the current NUMERIC settings.
MIN	Returns the smallest number from the list specified, formatted according to the current NUMERIC settings.
RANDOM	Returns a quasi-random, non-negative whole number in the range specified.
SIGN	Returns a number that indicates the sign of the input number.
TRUNC	Returns the integer part of the input number, and optionally a specified number of decimal places.
Function	Description
COMPARE	Returns 0 if the two input strings are identical. Otherwise, returns the position of the first character that does
DATATYPE	Returns a string indicating the input string is a particular data type, such as a number or character.
SYMBOL	Returns this state of the symbol (variable, literal, or bad).

Function	Description
B2X	Returns a string, in character format, that represents the input binary string converted to hexadecimal. (B
C2D	Returns the decimal value of the binary representation of the input string. (Character to Decimal)
C2X	Returns a string, in character format, that represents the input string converted to hexadecimal. (Characte
D2C	Returns a string, in character format, that represents the input decimal number converted to binary. (Deci
D2X	Returns a string, in character format, that represents the input decimal number converted to hexadecimal.
Х2В	Returns a string, in character format, that represents the input hexadecimal string converted to binary. (H
X2C	Returns a string, in character format, that represents the input hexadecimal string converted to character.
X2D	Returns the decimal representation of the input hexadecimal string. (Hexadecimal to Decimal)



Appendix A



Function	Description
ADDRESS	Returns the name of the environment to which commands are currently being sent.
ARG	Returns an argument string or information about the argument strings to a program or internal routine.
BITAND	Returns a string composed of the two input strings logically ANDed together, bit by bit.
BITOR	Returns a string composed of the two input strings logically ORed together, bit by bit.
BITXOR	Returns a string composed of the two input strings eXclusive ORed together, bit by bit.
CONDITION	Returns the condition information, such as name and status, associated with the current trapped condition.
DATE	Returns the date in the default format (dd mon yyyy) or in one of various optional formats.
ERRORTEXT	Returns the error message associated with the specified error number.
EXTERNALS *	Returns the number of elements in the terminal input buffer. In TSO/E, this function always returns a 0.
LINESIZE *	Returns the current terminal line width minus 1.
QUEUED	Returns the number of lines remaining in the external data queue at the time when the function is invoked.
SOURCELINE	Returns either the line number of the last line in the source file or the source line specified by a number.
TIME	Returns the local time in the default 24-hour clock format (hh:mm:ss) or in one of various optional formats.
TRACE	Returns the trace actions currently in effect.
USERID *	Returns the TSO/E user ID, if the REXX exec is running in the TSO/E address space.
VALUE	Returns the value of a specified symbol and optionally assigns it a new value.
XRANGE	Returns a string of all 1-byte codes (in ascending order) between and including specified starting and ending values





ADDRESS temporarily or permanently changes the destination of commands. Commands are strings sent to an external environment. You can send commands by specifying clauses consisting of only an expression or by using the ADDRESS instruction

ARG retrieves the argument strings provided to a program or internal routine and assigns them to variables. It is a short form of the instruction: PARSE UPPER ARG

CALL calls a routine (if you specify *name*) or controls the trapping of certain conditions (if you specify ON or OFF).

DO groups instructions together and optionally processes them repetitively. During repetitive execution, a control variable (*name*) can be stepped through some range of values.

DROP "unassigns" variables, that is, restores them to their original uninitialized state. If *name* is not enclosed in parentheses, it identifies a variable you want to drop and must be a symbol that is a valid variable name, separated from any other *name* by one or more blanks or comments Complete your sessions evaluation online at SHARE.org/BostonEval



EXIT leaves a program unconditionally. Optionally EXIT returns a character string to the caller.

IF conditionally processes an instruction or group of instructions depending on the evaluation of the *expression*. The *expression* is evaluated and must result in 0 or 1.

INTERPRET processes instructions that have been built dynamically by evaluating *expression*.

ITERATE alters the flow within a repetitive DO loop (that is, any DO construct other than that with a simple DO).

LEAVE causes an immediate exit from one or more repetitive DO loops (that is, any DO construct other than a simple DO).

NOP is a dummy instruction that has no effect. It can be useful as the target of a THEN or ELSE clause





NUMERIC changes the way in which a program carries out arithmetic operations

OPTIONS passes special requests or parameters to the language processor. For example, these may be language processor options or perhaps define a special character set.

according to the rules of parsing.

PROCEDURE, within an internal routine (subroutine or function), protects variables by making them unknown to the instructions that follow it. After a RETURN instruction is processed, the original variables environment is restored and any variables used in the routine (that were not exposed) are dropped.

PULL reads a string from the head of the external data queue

PUSH stacks the string resulting from the evaluation of *expression* LIFO (Last In, First Out) onto the external data queue.





QUEUE appends the string resulting from *expression* to the tail of the external data queue. That is, it is added FIFO (First In, First Out).

RETURN returns control (and possibly a result) from a REXX program or internal routine to the point of its invocation

SAY writes a line to the output stream.

SELECT conditionally calls one of several alternative instructions

SIGNAL causes an *unusual* change in the flow of control (if you specify *labelname* or VALUE *expression*), or controls the trapping of certain conditions

TRACE controls the tracing action UPPER translates the contents of one or more variables to uppercase. The variables are translated in sequence from left to right.





Appendix C Batch JCL

//STEP1 EXEC PGM=IRXJCL,PARM='MYEXEC A1 b2 C3 d4' //*

//STEPLIB

//* Next DD is the data set equivalent to terminal input //SYSTSIN DD DSN=xxx.xxx,DISP=SHR,... //*

//* Next DD is the data set equivalent to terminal output //SYSTSPRT DD DSN=xxx.xxx,DISP=OLD,... //*

//* Next DD points to a library of execs
//* that include MYEXEC
//SYSEXEC DD DSN=xxx.xxx,DISP=SHR





Appendix D Manual

Most of the data for this presentation was taken from the following manual:

http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/zos/v1r13/index.jsp?topic=%2Fcom.ib m.zos.r13.ikjc300%2Fikj4c310.htm

