Subject: Named specification expressions
From: Van Snyder
Reference: 03-258r1, section 2.10

Number

TBD

Title

Named specification expressions.

Submitted By

J3

Status

For consideration.

Basic Functionality

Provide for a name to be given to a specification expression.

Rationale

Automatic variables are convenient, but if several of them have the same (complicated) dimensions or lengths, it is tedious to declare them.

If several dummy arguments have dimensions or length parameters that are given by the same (complicated) specification expression, it is tedious to declare them.

Estimated Impact

Minor.

Detailed Specification

Provide for a name to be given to a specification expression.

One way to do this is to have a class of parameters, identified explicitly by an attribute, say DYNAMIC, whose values are given by specification rather than initialization expressions. That is, they are allowed to depend on other entities in exactly the same way that dimensions and length parameters are. Dynamic parameters can obviously be allowed only within procedures. It should be prohibited for them to appear in variable definition contexts.

History