



G2 Language Reference Card

Gensym Corporation

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G2 Language Reference

Syntax Notation

Syntax element	Description
keyword	Keyword(s) of the G2 Language
<i>italic-term</i>	User supplied term
{ <i>choice₁</i> <i>choice₂</i> ... <i>choice_n</i> }	Choose one
[,...] [; ...] ...	Repeat 0 or more times
{ }	Group elements
[]	Optional syntax
⌈ ⌋	Literal brackets

Actions

abort

abort {*procedure* | *method* | *procedure-invocation* | *method-invocation*}

activate/deactivate

{**activate** | **deactivate**} *the subworkspace of item*

change

change {*g2-array* | *g2-list*} [*integer-expression*] = *item-or-value*

change {*g2-array* | *g2-list*} [*integer-expression*] **to have no value**

change *the array-length of g2-array to quantity-expression*

change *the color-attribute-name of item to {color-name | symbolic-expression}*

change *the color-pattern of item so that {color-attribute-name is color-name} [, ...]*

change *the region-name icon-color of object to color-name*

change *the name of item to symbolic-expression*

change *the size of kb-workspace to minimum*

change the text of the *attribute of item* to *text-expression*

change the text of {*procedure* | *statement* | *free-text* | *message*} to *text-expression*

conclude

conclude that {*g2-array* | *g2-list*} [*integer-expression*]
 { = *value-expression* | is *symbolic-expression* | has no value }

conclude that the *attribute of item* { = *value-expression* |
 is *symbolic-expression* | has no value }

conclude that the { *class-name* | *type* } that is an *attribute of item*
 named by *symbolic-expression* { = *value-expression* | is *symbolic-expression* }

conclude that the *icon-variables of item* = *value-expression*

conclude that {*variable* | *parameter*} = *value-expression*

conclude that {*symbolic-variable* | *symbolic-parameter*} is *symbol*

conclude that {*logical-variable* | *logical-parameter*} is {*true* | *false*}

conclude that not {*logical-variable* | *logical-parameter*}

conclude that *variable* has no [*current*] value

conclude that *item* is [{*not* | *now* }] *relation-name item*

create

create {*a* | *an*} *class-name* [*local-name*] [*by cloning item*]

create an instance [*local-name*] of the class named by *symbolic-expression*

create a connection [*local-name*] [*of* {*class connection-class-name* |
 the class named by *symbolic-expression*}] *connected* {*between-spec* | *to-spec*}

delete

delete {*item* | *connection* [*removing connection stubs*] }

focus

focus on {*object* | *object-class*}, *awaiting completion*

halt

halt [with *text-expression*] if breakpoints are enabled

hide

hide {the workspace of *item* | the item superior to *item* |
the subworkspace of *item* | this workspace} [on *g2-window*]

inform

inform {the operator | *item*} [on *kb-workspace* [below *item* | above *item*]]
[for the next *time-interval*] that *text-expression*

insert

insert *item-or-value* {at the {beginning | end} of } | { {before | after} *item-or-value* in} *g2-list*

insert *item-or-value* {before | after} element *integer-expression* of *g2-list*

invoke

invoke *rule-category-name* [{, | or} *rule-category-name rules*]
[for {object | object-class}], awaiting completion

make

make *item* [permanent | transient]

make *kb-workspace* the subworkspace of *item*

move

move *item* [to | by] (*x*, *y*)

pause

pause knowledge-base

post

post [for the next *time-interval*] *text-expression*

print

print *kb-workspace*

remove

remove {*item-or-value* | *the* {*first* | *last*} *type*} *from* *g2-list*

remove element *integer-expression* *from* *g2-list*

reset

reset *knowledge-base*

rotate

rotate *item* {*by* | *to the heading*} *quantity-expression* *degrees*

set

set *variable* *to* *value-expression*

show

show {*kb-workspace* | *item*}
 [{*on window* *at* {*scale* | (*x,y*) *in the screen*} |
 {*at the item-location of the screen*} |
 {*scaled by numeric-expression*} |
 {*scaled by its current scale times*
 {*quantity-expression* | (*x,y*) }} |
 {*with its item-location at the window-location of the screen*} |
 {*with focal point* (*x,y*) *at* (*x,y*) *in the screen*} |
 {*with its workspace-location at the window-location of the screen*}]

show the *item* *superior to* {*kb-workspace* | *item*}

show the {*workspace* | *subworkspace*} *of* {*kb-workspace* | *item*}

shut down G2

shut down *g2*

start

start *procedure* ([*argument* [, ...]]) [*across* *g2-to-g2-interface* | *gsi-interface*]
 [*at* *priority* *integer-expression*] [*after* *time-expression*])

transfer

transfer *item* {*to* *kb-workspace* [*at* (*x,y*)] | *off*}

`transfer` *item to the mouse of g2-window*

`transfer` {*the attribute of object* | *object*} `to` {*item* | *the attribute of object*}

update

`update` *item*

Procedure Syntax

The term *statement* in the syntax that follows refers to the statements under [Procedure Statements](#).

procedure-name ([*argument*:{ `class` *class-name* } | *type* }] [, ...])

[= ({ `class` *class-name* } | *type* } [, ...])]

[*local-name* [, ...]:{ `class` *class-name* [= *item*] } | *type* [= *value-expression*] } ;] ...

`begin`

[*statement-label*:] *statement* [; ...]

`end`

[`on error` (*local-name*) [*statement* [; ...]] `end`]

Procedure Statements

Allow Other Processing

`allow other processing`

Assignment

local-name = *value-expression*

Begin ... End

`begin`

[*statement-label*:] *statement* [; ...]

`end`

Call

[*local-name* [, ...] =] `call` *procedure* (*item-or-value* [, ...])

[`across` {*g2-to-g2-interface* | *gsi-interface*}]

Case

```
case (value-expression) of
  { {quantity | text | symbol}: statement [; ...] } ...
  [otherwise: statement] [; ...]
end
```

Collect Data

```
collect data [ (timing out after time-expression) ]
  local-name = value-expression [; ...]
  [; if timeout then statement] [;]
end
```

Do in Parallel

```
do in parallel [until one completes]
  statement [; ...]
end
```

Exit

```
exit if truth-value-expression
```

For

```
for local-name = each generic-reference-expression do [in parallel [until one completes] ]
  statement [; ...]
end
```

```
for local-name = quantity-expression {to | down to} quantity-expression [by increment]
do [in parallel [until one completes] ]
  statement [; ...]
end
```

Go To

```
go to statement-label
```

If-Then

```
if truth-value-expression then statement [else statement]
```

On Error

This statement can follow the **end** keyword of any kind of block.

```
on error (local-name) [statement [; ...] ] end
```

Repeat

```
repeat statement [; ...] end
```

Return

```
return [value-expression [, ...] ]
```

Signal

```
signal error-object
```

Wait

```
wait { {for time-expression} |  
  {until truth-value-expression checking every time-expression} |  
  {until {variable | parameter |  
    {the attribute [local-name] of item} |  
    {the {class-name | type} that is an attribute of item  
    [named by symbolic-expression] } receives a value}}}
```

Rules Syntax

For an explanation of *generic-reference-expression*, see [Generic References](#).

for prefix

```
for-prefix := {for {any | the} generic-reference-expression} ...
```

if rule

```
[for-prefix] if truth-value-expression then [in order] action [and action] ...
```

initially rule

```
initially [for-prefix [unconditionally] ]  
  [if truth-value-expression then]  
  [in order] action [and action] ...
```

unconditionally rule

[*for-prefix*] **unconditionally** [*in order*] *action* [*and action*] ...

when rule

[*for-prefix*] **when** *truth-value-expression* **then** [*in order*] *action* [*and action*] ...

whenever rule

[*for-prefix*] **whenever** *event-expression* [*or event-expression*]
 [*and when truth-value-expression*] **then**
 [*in order*] *action* [*and action*] ...

Generic References

Precede a generic reference expression with one of the following five quantifiers, as appropriate.

the *generic-reference-expression*

In any expression, specifies a unique value.

any *generic-reference-expression*

In the antecedent of a rule, specifies a generic reference.

every *generic-reference-expression*

In the consequent of a rule, causes an action to execute on every item matching the reference; in a for every expression, iterates over a set.

each *generic-reference-expression*

In expressions over sets, computes a value based on the set; in procedures, iterates over items in a class.

a(n) *generic-reference-expression*

In there exists expressions, specifies a single element to test existence.

generic reference expression

generic-reference-expression :=
 {*class-name* | *type*} [*local-name*] [*generic-reference-qualifier*]

generic-reference-qualifier :=
 {*upon kb-workspace*} | {*connected connected-expression*} |
 {*at at-expression*} | {*nearest to item*} |
 {*superior to kb-workspace* | *object-attribute*} |
 {*that is relation-name item*} |
 {*named by symbolic-expression*} |
 {*in* {*g2-list* | *g2-array*} } | {*name of item*} |
 {*that is* {*a superior-class* | *an inferior-class*} *of symbolic-expression*}

Expressions

Generic reference qualifier expressions are indicated with a *. Use *the*, *any*, *every*, *each*, or *a(n)*, as appropriate.

Attribute

the attribute-name [*local-name*] *of* {*item* | *structure*}

the text [*local-name*] *of item*

the text of the attribute of item

the attribute name of subobject-expression

the {*variable* | *parameter*} *giving the attribute-name of*
 {*object* | *connection* | *message*}

**the* {*class-name* | *type*} *that is an attribute of* {*item* | *structure*}
 [*named by symbolic-expression*]

**the symbol* [*local-name*] *that is* {*a* | *an*}
user-defined attribute name of {*item* | *structure*}

**the symbol* [*local-name*] *that is an attribute name of* {*item* | *structure*}

Class

the class of item

the symbol [*local-name*] *that is*
 {*a superior-class* | *an inferior-class*} *of symbolic-expression*

any instance of class is created

Connection

the class-name [*local-name*] *connected to item*

the class-name [*local-name*] *connected at*

an {input to | input of | output of} *item*

the *class-name* [*local-name*] connected at the
{*port-name* of | input to | input of | output of} *item*

the *class-name* [*local-name*] at {an input end | an output end |
either end} of *connection*

item is {connected to | disconnected from} *item*

connection {of class *class*} is directly
{connected to | disconnected from}
{an input of | an output of | the portname of} *item*

Item

Name

item-name

the *class-name* [*local-name*] named by *symbolic-expression*

the *class-name* [*local-name*] superior to *object*

the *name* [*local-name*] of *item*

Module Assignment

the containing-module of *item*

Scope

{the *item* | this procedure | this procedure-invocation | this rule |
this window | this workspace}

Status

{*item* | *subworkspace*} is {activated | deactivated}

item is {enabled | disabled}

Truth Value

item is [not] the same object as *item*

item has a name

item is {a | an} *class-name*

item is an instance of the class named by *(symbolic-expression)*

Representation

the *{item-height | item-width}* of *item*

the *icon-heading* of *item*

Location

the *distance between item and {item | the nearest class-name}*

the *class-name [local-name] nearest to item*

object is moved [by {the user | G2}]

the *{item-x-position | item-y-position}* of *item*

List and Array

List and Array

{g2-array | g2-list | sequence | text} [integer-expression]

the *{class-name | type} [local-name] in {g2-array | g2-list | sequence}*

List

the *{first | second | next to last | last} {class-name | type}*
[local-name] in {g2-list | sequence}

{class-name | type} is [not] a member of {g2-list | sequence}

the *number of elements in {g2-list | sequence}*

g2-list that contains item

Array

the *array-length* of *g2-array*

Numeric

Arithmetic Operations

*quantity-expression { + | - | * | / } quantity-expression*

quantity-expression ^ integer-expression

Comparison

quantity-expression { = | /= | > | >= | < | <= } *quantity-expression*

Numeric Expressions Over Sets

the {sum | product | average | minimum | maximum} over each
generic-reference-expression of (*quantity-expression*)

the count of each *generic-reference-expression*
[such that (*truth-value-expression*)]

Fuzzy Truth

truth-value-expression {is more true than | is less true than |
is not more true than | is not less true than | = | /=}
truth-value-expression

quantity-expression {< | <= | > | >= | =}
(`+-` *quantity-expression*)

Relation

the *class-name* [*local-name*] that is *relation-name* item

item is [not] *relation-name* item

the relationships of *item*

the items-in-this-relation of *relation-name*

item {becomes | ceases to be} *relation-name* item

item {becomes | ceases to be} related to *item*

Symbol

the symbol *symbol*

symbolic-expression {is | is not} *symbol*

Text

" [*text*] [*value-expression*] [*text*] "

text-expression { = | /= | > | >= | < | <= } *text-expression*

Formatting

quantity-expression [**as** {*ddd.dddd-format* | **a time stamp** | **an interval**}]

Time

the current [**subsecond**] [**real**] **time**

the current {**year** | **month** | **day of the month** | **day of the week** |
hour | **minute** | **second**}

the current system [**real**] **time**

Truth Value

Logical Operation

truth-value-expression {**and** | **or**} *truth-value-expression*

not *truth-value-expression*

Conditional

(**if** *truth-value-expression* **then** *item-or-value*
[else *item-or-value* **]**)

For Every

for every *generic-reference-expression* (*truth-value-expression*)

Existence

there exists {**a** | **an**} *generic-reference-expression*
[such that (*truth-value-expression*) **]**

item-or-value {**exists** | **does not exist**}

Values

value-expression **is a type**

the [**current**] **value of** (*value-expression*)

value-expression **has** {**a** | **no**} [**current**] **value**

the first of the following expressions that has a [**current**] **value**
(*value-expression* [, ...])

Variable and Parameter

Variables

variable loses its value

Variables and Parameters

the simulated value of {*variable* | *parameter*}

the value of {*variable* | *parameter*} {as of *time-expression* ago |
as of *integer-expression* datapoints ago}

History (quantity, integer, float variables and parameters only)

the {average value of | maximum value of | minimum value of |
sum of the values of | standard deviation of | number of history datapoints in}
{*variable* | *parameter*} {during the last *time-expression* |
between *time-expression* ago and *time-expression* ago`}

the {rate of change per | integral in} *time-unit* of {*variable* | *parameter*}
{during the last *time-expression* | between *time-expression* ago and *time-expression* ago}

the interpolated value of {*variable* | *parameter*} as of *time-expression* ago

the {history | history-using-unix-time} of {*variable* | *parameter*}

history-expression of *variable-or-parameter* during the *time-expression*
ending with the collection time

Time

the collection time of {*variable* | *parameter*}
[as of *integer-expression* datapoints ago]

the expiration time of *variable*

Workspace

the {workspace | subworkspace} [*local-name*] of *item*

kb-workspace has [not] been activated

the *class-name* [*local-name*] superior to *kb-workspace*

the *class-name* [*local-name*] upon *kb-workspace*

the module-assignment of *kb-workspace*

Functions

Arithmetic Functions

abs (*quantity-expression*)

arctan (*quantity-expression* [, *quantity-expression*])

average (*quantity-expression*, *quantity-expression* [, *quantity-expression*...])

ceiling (*quantity-expression*)

cos (*quantity-expression*)

exp (*quantity-expression*)

expt (*quantity-expression*, *quantity-expression*)

floor (*quantity-expression*)

ln (*quantity-expression*)

log (*quantity-expression*)

max (*quantity-expression*, *quantity-expression* [, ...])

min (*quantity-expression*, *quantity-expression* [, ...])

quotient (*quantity-expression*, *quantity-expression*)

random (*quantity-expression* [, *quantity-expression*])

remainder (*quantity-expression*, *quantity-expression*)

round (*quantity-expression*)

sin (*quantity-expression*)

sqrt (*quantity-expression*)

tan (*quantity-expression*)

truncate (*quantity-expression*)

truth-value (*quantity-expression*)

Bitwise Functions

`bitwise-or` (*value-expression*, *value-expression*)

`bitwise-and` (*value-expression*, *value-expression*)

`bitwise-xor` (*value-expression*, *value-expression*)

`bitwise-not` (*value-expression*)

`bitwise-right-shift` (*value-expression*, *value-expression*)

`bitwise-left-shift` (*value-expression*, *value-expression*)

`bitwise-test` (*value-expression*, *value-expression*)

`bitwise-set` (*value-expression*, *value-expression*)

Call

`call-function` (*function-definition-expression* [*argument*] [, ...])

Character Support Functions

`character-codes-to-text` (*character-codes*: *sequence*)

`compare-text` (*text-1*: *text*, *text-2*: *text*)

`export-text` (*unicode-text*: *text*, *conversion-style*: *class text-conversion-style*)

`import-text` (*external-text*: *text*, *conversion-style*: *class text-conversion-style*)

`is-digit` (*character-code*: *integer*)

`is-lowercase` (*character-code*: *integer*)

`is-readable-digit` (*character-code*: *integer*)

`is-readable-digit-in-radix` (*character-code*: *integer*, *radix*: *integer*)

`is-titlecase` (*character-code*: *integer*)

`is-uppercase` (*character-code*: *integer*)

`readable-symbol-text` (*printed-text*: *text*)

`readable-text` (*printable-text*: *text*)

`readable-text-for-value` (*value-for-text*: *value*)

`text-to-character-codes` (*input-text: text*)

`to-lowercase` (*character-code: integer*)

`to-titlecase` (*character-code: integer*)

`to-uppercase` (*character-code: integer*)

`transform-text-for-unicode-comparison` (*text-to-transform: text*,
consider-case: truth-value)

`transform-text-for-G2-4.0-comparison` (*text-to-transform: text*,
consider-case: truth-value)

Connection Evaluator Functions

`connection-direction` (*object, connection*)

`connection-portname` (*object, connection*)

`connection-position` (*object, connection*)

`connection-side` (*object, connection*)

`connection-style` (*connection*)

`items-are-connected` (*item1: class item, item2: class item*)

`items-are-connected-with-direction` (*item1: class item*,
item2: class item, item1-direction: symbol)

`items-are-connected-at-ports` (*item1: class item, item2: class item*,
portname1: symbol, portname2: symbol)

Format Numeric Text Function

`format-numeric-text` (*quantity-text: text, formatting-expression: text*)

Great Circle Distance Function

`great-circle-distance` (*latitude-1: quantity, longitude-1: quantity*,
latitude-2: quantity, longitude-2: quantity, radius: quantity)

Quantity Function

`quantity` ({*truth-value-expression* | *text-expression* })

RGB Symbol Function

`rgb-symbol` (*rr*, *gg*, *bb*)

Regular Expressions Text Functions

`find-next-pattern` (*search-pattern*: *text*, *source-text*: *text*, *start-position*: *integer*)

`find-next-substring-matching-pattern` (*search-pattern*: *text*,
source-text: *text*, *start-position*: *integer*)

`find-and-replace-pattern` (*search-pattern*: *text*,
text-to-substitute: *text*, *source-text*: *text*,
start-position: *integer*, *end-position*: *integer*)

Sequence Functions

`change-element` (*sequence*, *integer*, *item-or-value*)

`concatenate` (*sequence*, *sequence* [...])

`insert-at-beginning` (*sequence*, *item-or-value*)

`insert-at-end` (*sequence*, *item-or-value*)

`insert-after` (*sequence*, *item-or-value*, *item-or-value*)

`insert-before-element` (*sequence*, *integer*, *item-or-value*)

`insert-after-element` (*sequence*, *integer*, *item-or-value*)

`remove` (*sequence*, *integer*)

`portion` (*sequence*, *integer*, *integer*)

`sequence` (*item-or-value* [...])

Symbol Function

`symbol` (*text-expression*)

Structure Functions

`change-attribute` (*structure*, *attribute-name*, *item-or-value*)

`change-evaluated-attribute` (*structure*, *symbol-expression*, *item-or-value*)

`evaluated-structure` (*symbol-expression*, *item-or-value* [...])

`remove-attribute` (*structure, attribute-name*)

`remove-evaluated-attribute` (*structure, symbol-expression*)

`structure` (*attribute-name: item-or-value [...]*)

Text Functions

`capitalize-words` (*text-expression*)

`get-from-text` (*source-text: text, start-index: integer, end-index: integer*)

`insert-in-text` (*text-expression, text-expression, integer*)

`is-contained-in-text` (*text-expression, text-expression*)

`length-of-text` (*text-expression*)

`lower-case-text` (*text-expression*)

`omit-from-text` (*text-expression, integer, integer*)

`position-of-text` (*text-expression, text-expression*)

`replace-in-text` (*text-to-substitute: text, source-text: text, start-index: integer, end-index: integer*)

`text-begins-with-quantity` (*text-expression*)

`upper-case-text` (*text-expression*)

Text Tokenizing Function

`get-next-token` (*tokenizer: class G2-tokenizer, source-text: text, start-position: integer*)

Time Functions

{*year | month | day-of-the-month | day-of-the-week | minute | hour | second*} (*time-expression*)

`time` (*year, month, day, hour, minute, second*)

User-Defined Functions

function-name ([*argument*] [, ...])

Inspect Syntax

show on a workspace {item | the class-name named item-name} |
 every class-name [filter] | the workspace hierarchy
 [of {kb-workspace-name | object-name}] |
 the class hierarchy [of class-name] |
 the module hierarchy [of module-name] |
 the method hierarchy of method-name |
 the method inheritance path for class-name
 [and the method method-name] }

write to the file filename {item | the class-name named item-name} |
 every class-name [filter] | the class hierarchy [of class-name] }

go to symbol

display a table [columnwise] of [the attribute-name [, ...] of]
 {item | the class-name named item-name |
 every class-name [filter] }

replace | highlight [the {word | symbol}] {text | symbol} with
 {text | symbol} in {item | the class-name named item-name |
 every class-name [filter] }

check for consistent modularization

recompile {item | the class-name named item-name |
 every class-name [filter] }

Filters

such that truth-value-expression

containing [the {word | symbol}] text-expression

with notes

whose status is status

where attribute-name relational-operator quantity-expression

where attribute is {truth-value-expression | symbolic-expression}

in the category symbolic-expression

which has the focal {class | object} symbolic-expression

found on the workspace kb-workspace

assigned to module *module-name* [or *module-name*]

assigned to the hierarchy of module *module-name*

Version Control

show on a workspace the change log entry of the *attribute* of *item*
{as of *timestamp*} | {with revision *num*} | {with tag *tag*}

show on a workspace the differences between
the change log entry of the *attribute* of *item*
{as of *timestamp*} | {with revision *num*} | {with tag *tag*}
and the change log entry of the *attribute* of *item*
{as of *timestamp*} | {with revision *num*} | {with tag *tag*}

use version control to tag the change log entry of every logged attribute of
every item in module *module-name* [as of *timestamp*] using tag *tag*

use version control to tag the change log entry of the *attribute* of *item*
[as of *timestamp* | with revision *num*] using tag *tag*

use version control to revert the text of every logged attribute of every
item in module *module-name* to the change log entry {as of *timestamp*}
| {using tag *tag*}

use version control to revert the text of the *attribute* of *item* to the
change log entry {as of *timestamp*} | {with revision *num*} |
{with tag *tag*}

use version control to delete the change log entry of the *attribute* of *item*
{as of *timestamp*} | {with revision *num*} | {with tag *tag*}

use version control to enable change logging on *item*

use version control to disable change logging on *item*