

## CoCoA-5 - Feature #1541

### foreach with ref to list entry?

01 Dec 2020 13:58 - John Abbott

<b>Status:</b>	New	<b>Start date:</b>	01 Dec 2020
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	<b>Due date:</b>	
<b>Assignee:</b>		<b>% Done:</b>	0%
<b>Category:</b>	CoCoA-5 function: new	<b>Estimated time:</b>	0.00 hour
<b>Target version:</b>	CoCoA-5.4.2	<b>Spent time:</b>	0.40 hour
<b>Description</b>			
Julian Danner asks whether it would be possible to have a version of foreach which operates on a reference to the list entry.			
Currently this does not change L			
<pre>L := [1,2,3]; foreach X in L do   if X &gt; 2 then X := 0; endif; endforeach;</pre>			
The actual implementation was a list of RECORDs where it made sense to update a field of some of the records.			

### History

#### #1 - 01 Dec 2020 14:03 - John Abbott

If we choose to extend CoCoA-5, there are 2 obvious approaches:

- modify foreach so that it uses references --- obviously not backward compatible!
- make a new loop command (e.g. foreachref) --- obviously entails modifying the interpreter significantly

At the moment I am undecided whether the proposal is a good idea. The man page for foreach should make it clear that entries in the original list cannot be modified by changing the value of the loop variable. I have made a first, simple change to the man page.

#### #2 - 15 Jan 2024 19:39 - John Abbott

Postponing this issue because it requires discussion, and could be tricky/lengthy if we opt to to make the change. I have made a further minor improvement to the documentation for foreach.