Initial-Value Definition
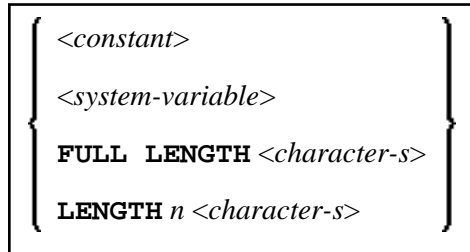
The *init-definition* used in the *variable-definition* option of DEFINE DATA LOCAL, DEFINE DATA INDEPENDENT, DEFINE DATA CONTEXT and DEFINE DATA OBJECT has the following syntax:

```
⎧  <constant>                        ⎫
⎪                                    ⎪
⎪  <system-variable>                 ⎬
⎨                                    ⎪
⎪  FULL LENGTH <character-s>         ⎪
⎪                                    ⎭
⎩  LENGTH n <character-s>
```

This chapter covers the following topics:

- Function

- Restriction

- Syntax Description

For an explanation of the symbols used in the syntax diagram, see *Syntax Symbols*.

Function

With the *init-definition* option, you define the initial/constant values for a variable.

Note:
If, in the *variable-definition* option, the keyword INIT was used for the initialization, the value may be modified by any statement that affects the content of a variable. If the keyword CONST was used for the initialization, any attempt to change the value will be rejected by the compiler.

See also *Defining Fields*, *Initial Values* in the *Programming Guide*.

Restriction

For a redefined field, an *init-definition* is not permitted.

Syntax Description

<constant>	The constant value with which the variable is to be initialized; or the constant value to be assigned to the field. For further information on constants, see *User-Defined Constants* in the *Programming Guide*.

<system-variable>	The initial value for a variable may also be the value of a Natural system variable. Example:
	
	```DEFINE DATA LOCAL```
	```1 #MYDATE (D) INIT <*DATX>```
	```END-DEFINE```
	
	Note:
	When the variable is referenced in a RESET INITIAL statement, the system variable is evaluated again; that is, it will be reset not to the value it contained when program execution started but to the value it contains when the RESET INITIAL statement is executed.

FULL LENGTH *<character-s>*
 	
LENGTH *n* *<character-s>*
	As initial value, a variable can be filled, entirely or partially, with a specific single character or string of characters; this is only possible for alphanumeric (code page or Unicode) variables.
	
	With the FULL LENGTH option, the entire field will be filled with the specified *character* or *characters*. In the following example, the entire field will be filled with asterisks.
	
	```DEFINE DATA LOCAL```
	```1 #FIELD (A25) INIT FULL LENGTH <'*'>```
	```END-DEFINE```
	
	With the LENGTH *n* option, the first *n* positions of the field will be filled with the specified *character* or *characters*. *n* must be a numeric constant. In the following example, the first 4 positions of the field will be filled with exclamation marks.
	
	```DEFINE DATA LOCAL```
	```1 #FIELD (A25) INIT LENGTH 4 <'!'>```
	```END-DEFINE```