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IEEE P1003.2b Draft 2 – December 1991

4.53 `rm` — Remove directory entries

⇒ **4.53.2 `rm` Description.** *Replace item (2c) with:*

For each entry contained in *file*, other than dot or dot-dot, the four steps listed here [(1)-(4)] shall be taken with the entry as if it were a *file* operand. The `rm` utility shall not traverse directories by following symbolic links into other parts of the hierarchy, but shall remove the links themselves.

Editor's Note: The following rationale will be added to E.4.53, but is kept here with `rm` *for this draft:*

`rm` Rationale. *(This subclause is not a part of P1003.2b)*

The `rm` utility removes symbolic links themselves, not the files they refer to, as a consequence of the dependence on the POSIX.1 {8} *unlink*() functionality, per the Description. When removing hierachies with `−r` or `−R`, the prohibition on following symbolic links has to be made explicit.

4.62 `test` — Evaluate expression

⇒ **4.62.3 `test` Operands.** *Add the following primary in the proper sorted order:*

`−h` *file* True if *file* exists and is a symbolic link.

⇒ **4.62.3 `test` Operands.** *Add the following at the end of the primaries list (before the paragraph that begins* ‘‘A primary can be preceded by . . . ’’

With the exception of the `−h` *file* primary, if a *file* argument is a symbolic link, `test` shall evaluate the expression by resolving the symbolic link and using the file referenced by the link.