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4.13 `cp` — Copy files

⇒ **4.13.2 `cp` Description.** *Add the following sentence to the end of the first sentence of the seventh paragraph (beginning* 'In the following description, source_file refers *...'):*

When *source_file* is a symbolic link, `cp` shall take actions based on the file or directory referenced by the link, not the contents of the link itself. In traversing the file hierachy with `-R` or `-r`, it also shall follow symbolic links to other parts of the hierarchy.

Editor's Note: Question for working group: Should the language about infinite loop detection be copied from `find` *and* `pax`*?*

Editor's Note: The following rationale will be added to E.4.13, but is kept here with `cp` *for this draft:*

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

When `cp` encounters a symbolic link to be copied, it copies the contents of the file resolved from the link. Unlike many of the other utilities, such as `chown` or the default case of `find`, `cp -r` and `-R` do traverse directories by following links into other parts of the hierarchy. This allows the data in a file hierarchy to be duplicated at another place, such as for backup purposes.

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4.24 `find` — Find files

⇒ **4.24.4 `find` Operands.** *Add the following primary in the proper sorted order:*

`-follow` The primary always shall evaluate as true; it shall cause `find` to traverse directories by following symbolic links into other parts of the hierarchy. By default, `find` shall not follow symbolic links. In following symbolic links, `find` shall keep track of the directories visited so that it can detect infinite loops. (For example, a loop would occur if a symbolic link refers to a directory that is an ancestor.) When it detects a loop, `find` shall write a diagnostic message to standard error and shall either recover its position in the hierarchy in an implementation-defined manner or terminate.

⇒ **4.24.4 `find` Operands.** *In the* `-type` *c description, add the character* `l` *(ell) to represent a symbolic link.*

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