# COMPUTER 

## A REFERENCE JOURNAL FOR USERS OF HOME COMPUTERS

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## DON'T KEEP IT A SECRET!

Let us know what exciting new sofitware and systems you are working on. We'll tell everyone else (if you wish). Maybe someone is also working on the same thing. You can work together and get results twice as fast. Or, may be someone else has already done it; no reason for everyone to reinvent the wheel.

## DR. DOBB'S JOURNAL OF <br> COMPUTER CALISTHENICS \& ORTHODONTIA

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DATE ${ }^{\prime}$ M-Please include your name, address, and date on all tidbits you send to us.

TYPE'M-If at all possible, items should be typewritten, double-spaced, on standard, $812 \times 11 \mathrm{inch}$, white paper. If we can't read it, we can't publish it. Remember that we will be retyping all natural language (as opposed to computer languages) communications that we publish.

PROGRAM LISTINGS-We will accept hand-written programs only as a very last resort. Too often, they tend to say something that the computer would find indigestible. On the other hand, if the computer typed it, the computer would probably accept it-particularly if it is a listing pass from an assembler or other translator.

It is significantly helpful for program listings to be on continuous paper; either white, or very light blue, roll paper, or fan-folded paper. Since we reduce the copy in size, submitting it on individual pages forces us to do a significant amount of extra cutting and pasting. For the same reason, we prefer that you exclude pagination or page headings from any listings.

Please, please, please put a new ribbon on your printer before you run off a listing for publication.

In any natural language documentation accompanying a program listing, please refer to portions of code by their address or line number or label, rather than by page number.

DRAWINGS \& SCHEMATICS-Please draw them significantly larger than the size you expect them to be when they are published. Take your time and make them as neat as possible. We do not have the staff to retouch or re-draw illustrations. Use a black-ink pen on white paper.

LETTERS FOR PUBLICATION-We are always interested in hearing your praise, complaints, opinions, daydreams, etc. In letters of opinion for publication, however, please back up any opinions that you present with as much factual information as possible.

We are quite interested in publishing well-founded, responsible evaluations and critiques of anything concerning hobbyist hardware or software, home computers, or computers and people.

We may withhold your name from a published letter if you so request. We will not publish correspondence, however, which is sent to us anonymously.

We reserve the right to edit letters for purpose of clarity and brevity.

ADVERTISING-As long as we can afford to do so, we will not accept paid commercial advertising. This "keeps us honest" when we pursue the role of consumer advocate.

With this issue, we are initiating what we expect to be a regular feature in Dr. Dobb's Journal: reports of independent product and software tests and evaluations. We propose that these will be "independent" in that we have no financial ties or obligations to these manufacturers, the producers of these products. We carry no paid advertising.

Ever since the computer hobby began, there have been regular pleas for such independent testing and evaluation. Until recently, we have been rather haphazard in our attempts to assist consumers in judging the quality of products being marketed to them. We have pursued this primarily through the publication of complimentary and complaining letters regarding products. With such letters, we generally have no knowledge of the expertise, fairness, honesty or bias of the writers (thus, they have been published as "letters" rather than as "articles"). Recognition of this fact prompted us to adopt a policy [see Editorial in October, 1976, DDJ] regarding the treatment of letters of complaint. Though we will continue to publish such letters within the constraints of that policy [see several examples in this issue], we feel that a formal, orderly product testing and evaluation program would be more fair and more useful to our readers. It will also be perfectly in keeping with the Charter of our publisher, People's Computer Company. PCC is a California-licensed, non-profit educational corporation.

## WHO WILL DO THE TESTING?

We have organized an evaluation team consisting of three people, plus the Editor. These are individuals whose qualifications we do know. Jef Raskin is the Director of the group. Many of you already know of him through his critique of a number of hobby systems [DDJ, September, 1976, "A Bit of Wheat Amongst the Chaff." This issue carries a second product evaluation by him. Jef is currently an independent consultant involved in several "real world" applications of small computers. Prior to this, his work included serving as Director of the Third College Computation Center at the University of California in San Diego, and serving as a Professor of Visual Arts there for five years. Before that, he was an instructor in Computer and Electronic Music at Pennsylvania State University for several years. He holds a B.S. in Philosophy (1965) from the University of New York with minors in mathematics and physics, and a M.S. in Computer Science (1967) from Penn State.

The second member of the evaluation group is Dennis McGhie. Dennis is currently working for a major biomedical research center in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has been a programmer since 1968, working on both maxi's and mini's, primarily in the areas of database systems, training
systems, computer graphics, and real-time systems. Though he has no formal hardware training, he has a good seat-of-the-pants background derived from years of working with experimental real-time computerized biomedical data acquisition and process control. He holds a B.S. (1968) in Chemistry from Stanford University.

The third team member is Michael Heathman, currently a senior systems programmer for a new time-sharing system being installed in a major Bay Area research institution. He has systems experience with maxi's and midi's, including PDP-15's and PDP-11's. He has been a programmer for six years, except for a year's leave taken to perform graduate studies in computer science at the University of Washington. He holds a B.S. (1970) in electrical engineering from Stanford.

Final responsibility for this program will rest with the Editor of Dr. Dobb's Journal, Jim Warren. Aside from editing the Journal, currently, Jim is working as an independent consultant specializing
in small computers in highly interactive environments. He is also in "dissertation mode" in a Ph.D. program through Stanford's Electrical Engineering Department. He has worked as a computer consultant for most of a decade, with several years of programming experience preceeding that. Prior to entering the computer field, he taught mathematics for about ten years, including Chairing the Mathematics Department at the College of Notre Dame - Belmont. He holds a B.S. (1959) and M.A. (1964) in mathematics, and two M.S. degrees; one in Medical Information Science and the other in Computer Engineering.

## HOW WILL THE EVALUATIONS BE DONE?

We will contact producers of products being marketed to the computer hobbyist community, and encourage them to participate in this testing and evaluation program. If they choose to do so, this is what will happen:

They will send us a purchase letter - a voucher with which we can "blind purchase" an item to be tested. We will then have someone, not known to be associated with PCC or $D D J$, obtain the desired product. In the case of products sold only by mail, a unit will be ordered; when it arrives, it will be "paid for" by returning the voucher with the invoice. If the desired unit is available through Bay Area retailers, our "buyer" will go in; pick out a unit; and, when it comes time to pay for the item, will use the voucher to "pay" for it. The voucher, of course, will guarantee to immediately replace the unit or reimburse the dealer. In this way, we can be reasonably assured of obtaining units for testing that have not been especially "tuned"; they will be standard consumer products.

The product thus obtained will then be evaluated in whatever manner is most appropriate (and in whatever ways are possible with the test gear available at the time). In the case of kits - where such independent examinations are perhaps most badly needed - a team member may construct the kit, or we may well have some interested novice put the kit together under our observation. In either case, careful notes will be kept concerning all aspects of the unit and its evaluation.

Subsystems that are advertised as being plug compatible with some particular interface structure will be tested for such compatability. Major components will be tested against manufacturer's advertising claims and the rated capacities given in the documentation. Other testing will be conducted, where appropriate.

When the testing is completed, the evaluator(s) will write a report of their findings - good and bad. Particular attention will be given to reporting the following aspects: does the unit perform as advertised? Are there inadequacies that are unmentioned by the manufacturer? How does the unit compare to its competitors? How does the unit compare against "perfection"? (When comparing against perfection, the report will explicitly point out that no one else's product meets those standards, either.) Are there any "little hidden gotchas"? In all cases, as much of the test data as possible will be provided in the article, from which the reader will be able to judge the unit for himself. Any personal judgements made by the evaluator will be accompanied by the hard data he used in reaching that opinion, and/or will include an explicit statement of the evaluator's personal bias in the matter.

Once completed, the report will be submitted to the manufacturer of the product for their comments. They will have the opportunity to offer corrections of fact (the "factual" character will be judged by the evaluators and the Editor). If they wish, they may also provide a "manufacturer's response" which, if concise and pertinent in the judgement of the Editor, will be published along with the evaluation. Though the manufacturers will have the right to suggest corrections and to provide a response article, they will have no editorial control over the report. After giving the manufacturer several weeks to a month - and no more than that - to respond, the report and any appropriate response will be published in Dr. Dobb's Journal.

The products that are tested will become the property of People's Computer Company. Often, the evaluators will be "paid" for their services by giving them the products they have evaluated. This will both assure an active interest in the evaluation on the part of the team members, and will also provide us with the opportunity to observe
the units in operation over some period of time, with supplementary reports being given as appropriate.

## WILL THE MANUFACTURERS COOPERATE?

Both the public and the manufacturers have often noted that commerical magazines rarely if ever publish articles that are really critical of products available from companies that are advertising in that magazine. (One publisher, targeting for the computer hobbyist community, is widely reputed to consistently publish excellent "evaluations" of products from advertisers, and highly critical "evaluations' of products from manufacturers who refuse to advertise in the publication).

Thus, the public tends to take such evaluations in ad-carrying periodicals with a well-deserved grain of salt. Alternatively, Dr. Dobb's Journal - and PCC before it - has had a consistent reputation for readily publishing compliments and complaints, including complaints about our publications. We believe that carefully done, comprehensive product evaluations, published in DDJ, will be accepted as being unbiased and accurate.

If we publish a favorable evaluation of a product, it should be of significant value to that manufacturer. In particular, we herewith grant explicit permission to any manufacturer to reprint such evaluations from Dr. Dobb's Journal, either in their entirety or a paragraph at a time. Such reprinting may be done without further permission from $D D J$, and without any compensation whatsoever being paid to Dr. Dobb's (other than possession of the products that were tested). Publication of less than a paragraph at a time, minimum, will require explicit permission from $D D J$. We explicitly prohibit reprinting out-of-context portions of such a (copyrighted) evaluation, when it fails to accurately reflect the results of the evaluation.

We also hope to - in the not too distant future - develop an objective rating procedure for home computing products. Once developed, we will invent and trademark a $D D J$ evaluation logo that includes the ratings. Manufacturers may then mark their products as "Grade A - Tested in Dr. Dobb's Kitchen", or some such thing.

We have already spoken with several manufacturers, outlining our plans. Reception has varied from an active interest in immediately participating, to a total rejection of the proposal. We will report the details, whenever it seems fair and appropriate to do so.

## UNRESPONSIVENESS FROM ADVANCED MICRO-ELECTRONICS

I received a AY5-8500 6 Game MOS/LSI chip from Advanced Micro-Electronics, P.O. Box 17329, Irvine, CA 92713. It didn't operate properly. I wrote them a letter in August (two months ago) describing what the chip did and have received no answer.

Thank you for reading my letter.
Stuart R. Fallgatler
7910 Rio Vista Dr.
Goleta, CA 93017
[We wrote them, saying:]
76-11-7
We recently received a complaint concerning your company, a copy of which is enclosed. Recognizing that there are two sides to every story, and in keeping with our published policy (copy enclosed) [See $D D J$, Vol. 1, No. 9] concerning handling of consumer complaints regarding vendors' products and services, we wish to offer you the opportunity to present your view of the situation. Therefore, we will withhold any decision concerning possible publication of the complaint for at least two weeks from the date of this letter, pending the possibility that you may wish to offer a timely response.

If you do choose to respond, we will, of course, take your comments into consideration in deciding whether or not to publish the complaint. If we do decide to publish it, even in light of your comments, we will almost certainly also publish your response - your side of the story - unless you explicitly prohibit our publication of your reply.

Also, if you choose to reply, we would appreciate your forwarding a copy of that reply to the complainant. Many thanks for your attention to these comments. We look forward to your reply.

As of Dec. 2, 1977, we have received no reply.-JCW

## BEWAREI THE DOLLAR GOBBLING INFLATION INFECTION IS ABOUT TO AFFLICT ONE OF YOUR LOVED ONES .- <br> Subscription Rates for Dr. Dobb's Journal Increase January lst <br> Almost all of our subscription rates are going up as of the start of 1977. This means that our basic subscription rate will now be as much as Byte's. And, as always, a year's subscription is for 10 issues; we publish single issues for June/July and Nov./Dec. <br> We had to either do this - and remain responsible only to our readers - or begin accepting paid advertising, along with its strong though perhaps subtle incentive to "keep the advertisers happy." Considering that we have been purusing an active consumer advocacy role, ever since we started, and considering that we are significantly expanding that activity [see editorial on product and software testing and evaluation plans], we felt that the subscription increase was the preferable alternative. We are still awaiting the results of the question concerning whether or not we should carry paid advertising (a question posed in the last several subscription forms and in the subscription renewal notices).

Prize

## DDJ SEEKS SUPER LOGO!

Like all massive organizations intent upon changing the fabric of society, Dr. Dobb's Journal has concluded that it should have a logo - a symbol by which all people may instantly recognize us. It might be our current title masthead . . . but that's so longwinded. Ideally, it should be a symbol or figure that in some sense illustrates our activities (now, now - be nice).

Knowing that computer people are delightfully inventive, we are coming to you for suggestions. We are looking for a logo that we can use in fairly large size in our masthead, letterhead stationery, advertisements, etc. We would also like for it to be recognizable, even when shrunken down to, say, 1 " $x^{1} 1 / 2$ ". Thus, it can't have too much detail in it (or, the large version can have details, and the smaller versions must be in some way simplified).

Please forward your suggestions. You can describe them, or you can provide a rough sketch, or you can submit an oversized camara-ready master. If we pick your suggestion as the basis for our logo, then we will thank you by giving you a five-year subscription to $D D J$ (extending your current subscription, if necessary). Of course, all suggestions become the property of People's Computer Company, the publisher of Dr. Dobb's.

## NOW WE CAN BLAME IT ON THE COMPUTER

At long last, we have switched from manual processing of subscription records - so fraught with human error to computerized subscription processing - thereby obtaining even more potential for human error. Therefore, please check your address label, and let us know if it is in any way incorrect.

It must have been a computer error . . .

## CORRECTION TO PHONE NUMBER FOR KENTUCKY $\mathbb{F R I E D}$ COMPUTERS

Our September issue carried an announcement of a $10 \%$ discount on selected products, available to $D D J$ readers for a limited amount of time, offered by Kentucky Fried Computer Store in Berkeley, CA. We included the phone number, only to be told later that it was incorrect. When we checked the original copy submitted by the store owners - a computer-edited article - we found that we had correctly copied an incorrect number. Tsk, tsk . . . must have been the computer.

Their correct phone is (415) 549-0858, and they are located at 2465 Fourth St.

## NEW LOGARITHMIC CONVERTER

by Jim Day
Precision Monolithics, Inc., 1500 Space Park Dr., Santa Clara, CA 95050, 408/246-9222, recently announced development of a $\mathrm{D} / \mathrm{A}$ converter providing the $72-\mathrm{dB}$ dynamic output range of a 12 -bit converter from an 8 -bit input. Three bits select one of eight chords (i.e., ranged approximating a logarithmic function) and four bits select one of 16 linear steps within each chord. Resolution near zero is equal to that of a 12 -bit converter, dropping to 5 -bits (plus sign) at the extremes. Designated the DAC-76, this 18 -pin DIP costs $\$ 19$ in lots of 100.

For high-quality audio output having negligible quantization error at low volume levels, 12 -bit D/A converters are customarily used. These tend to be expensive and awkward to drive from an 8 -bit MPU. Fortunately, the amplitude response of the human ear is logarithmic. This means that greater quantization error is tolerable at high volume, amking an 8-bit logarithmic $D / A$ converter ideal for speech synthesis and com-puter-generated music when used with an 8-bit MPU.

## A SUPER BOOK, FULL OF COMPLETE SYSTEMS PROGRAMS

Dear Dr.,
September 27, 1976
A valuable new book is available for the computer hobbyist. Software Tools by B. W. Kernighan and P. J. Plauger, Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1976 presents programs for a test editor, file formatter, macro processor, librarian and language preprocessor while teaching structured programming. These are complete programs available from the publisher in machine-readable form (cost unknown) for a machine with a Fortran compiler. I've read the book - it's great! It starts with a simple echoing routine and builds and builds very logically.

A Tiny Fortran compler with integer arithmetic, character $\mathbb{I} / O$, the $\mathbb{I F}$ statement and $\mathbb{F U N C T I O N ~ a n d ~ S U B R O U - ~}$ TINE subprograms could implement an impressive array of tools. Tiny BASIC could do it if it were compilable and could pass arguments as parameters to subroutines.

Implementation of these programs would be a big step toward having home computers help their owners do usefull things; and home microcomputers are admirably suited to the word processing tasks the book presents.

It's sort of cheap, too: $\$ 8.95$ in paper. Bill Pearson

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## SCCS INTERFACE - STATUS REPORT

Good news! Your regular SCCS Interface will be coming again to you soon! This is to bring you further up to date on the Southern California Computer Society publication.

Originally the Society went to an outside service to print SCCS Interface on behalf of the Society. Certain differences have arisen with the publishing service and efforts at settlement have apparently failed. During our negotiations, the outside service printed its own magazine called Interface Age, the first copy of which appeared in August. You may have received copies of Interface Age in the mail. The Society did not mail it to its members. The logotype on Interface Age and the format of the magazine are very similar to SCCS Interface and you may not have even noticed the change. Interface Age is not an authorized publication of the Society. We have discussed our legal options with our attorneys. Now that we are free to move ahead, the Society has obtained its own publishing service. We will resume distribution of SCCS Interface next month. Only SCCS Interface will be the authorized publication of the Southern California Computer Society.

We expect SCCS Interface will carry out the spirit and policy of the Society - to be objective with regard to vendors' products and services, to report the activities of our Society, to provide an open forum for our members, to experiment and of course, to provide important articles of interest.

We are working hard, fast and enthusiastically on this and appreciate your patience. The memberships of those who missed any copies will be extended.

Larry Press has been named to fill the editor's spot. Please send editorial contributions and suggestions, articles, announcements, inquiries on ads or distribution, aspirin and good wishes to Larry at 1702 Ashland Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90405, (213) 399-2083.

The member authors whose articles appeared in August and September issues of Age intended to have their material appear in the official Society publication. We assure them that in the future no submitted material will appear in other than SCCS Interface.

Very Truly Yours, The Board of Directors
SCCS Interface
October 18, 1876

## A FIXIT "KIT"' FOR MARK-8 DOCUMENTATION

Dear Jim, Sept. 17, 1976
I have been reading with great interest the issues of $D D J 1$ । have an offering for "BUGS \& FIXES." I have put together a modifications/corrections kit for the MARK-8 to fix up the over 50 typos in the schematics, errors in design, and errors in instructions. It includes instructions (11 pgs), complete set of new schematics, and a parts kit. The cost is set to only recover costs. MARK-8s have suffered in the software marketplace due to lack of enthusiasm, which I feel is in part due to the difficulties in getting them up. This package should help the problem clear up and create more spirit (since I still want BASIC for my 8008I).
MARK:8 Corrections/Mods Package - Fixes those glitches, interrupt structure, mem. addr. levels, LED bd., buffered CPU, clock phases, console controls, etc. Includes new complete schematics, instructions, and parts (even drill bit and wire). \$10. Ronald Carlson, 14014 Panay Way Apt. 225, Marina del Rey, CA 90291.

Sinicerely.
Ronaid E . Carison
14014 Panay Way, Apt. 225 Marina del Rey, CA 90291

## BYTE OFFERS AN EXCITING PROPOSAL

 Machine-Readable Programs in Magazine FormatPraise by Jim Warren, Editor, $D D J$
OK, folks . . . are you ready to throw away those cantankerous and expensive paper-tape readers? Are you ready to give up those cat-naps you take while waiting for programs to load from your kid's audio cassette player (you do have a megabyte of memory, don't you?)? Then look to Byte* for a better way!

The November issue of Byte magazine carries an article by Walter Banks and Roger Sanderson of the University of Waterloo, and Carl Helmers of Byte, proposing an idea that should cause the hobbyist to gleefully reposition their prayer rugs in the direction of 70 Main Street in Peterborough, New Hampshire: a super-neat method for publishing machinereadable information. Walter and Carl are proposing that the bar-code scanning techniques already in widespread use in automated grocery checkout systems are equally applicable to publication of machine-readable programs and data.

The basic idea is that programs and data that are of widespread interest can be encoded in a standard bar-code format, printed in a book or magazine (presumably with the human readable form on nearby pages), and loaded into an individual's home computer by simply waving an optical scanning wand over the machine-readable pages. Programs and data could then be truly "published" - printing them instead of using the far more expensive and less convenient punched or recorded formats. The reading mechanism - the scanning wand - has the advantage of no mechanical parts, depending on the human hand for its motive power. It's simple; it's nonmechanical; it should be cheap. Data transfer rates are obviously limited only by the speed of the hand and the speed of the processor that is interpreting the input from the scanner.

This is not a future fantasy. The technology is already well-developed, both for printing of machine-readable information and for inexpensive optical scanners. Optical scanning of printed information has been in use for some years in the banking industry. There, total reliability is an absolute requirement, and the encoding format and scanner design they use is considerably more complex than is necessary with bar-codes and bar-code scanners. Bar-code techniques have proven sufficiently reliable that they are in wide-spread use in grocery checkout facilities, where accuracy is a must (demanded by the paranoid consumer was well as by the food retailers), and where sloppy usage must be assumed.

This is not an idle proposal or one-shot in the dark by Byte. The November article is an explicit, detailed, nuts-andbolts article. The December issue of Byte will include samples of machine-readable code in several experimental formats, an article on signal processing for optical scanning of bar-codes, and the specifics of the software that is necessary for reading bar-coded information. Articles in the immediate future are sure to include complete details for the construction of bar-code scanning wands and their interfaces.

We cannot praise this proposal too highly. If this technique, in fact, proves feasible and reliable, it will provide a significant breakthrough for the problem of distribution of machine-readable software añd data. Note: The import of this for the forseeable future well may be in its facility for distribution of data, rather than programs - e.g., census data, voting records, mathematical and engineering tables, encyclopedias, want ads, library indices, case law citations, you name it - all types of reference materials that it would be desirable to be able to search and access via machine.

COMPUTER CONTROL OF TAPES HAS MUCH WIDER USE THAN MERELY FOR MUSIC SYSTEMS

Dear Jim, Sept. 20, 1976
I read your excellent article: "Computer Control of Music Tapes for Your Home Stereo" in DDJ Number 8. I think it is really a realizable fantastic fantasy. However, I have some objection to the title (and the emphasis) of the article.

Had you titled it: "Computer Control of Bach's Music Tape for Your Home Stereo on the Second Floor," I would have objected even more. The hardware you described is a computer controlled tape deck that can handle both digital and analog recordings. The software you proposed is also a very general file system. As you have mentioned in your "bells and whistles," this system would be ideal for many types of computer-aided instruction. I would also use it to play computer games, and many many more. Wouldn't it be great to hear Dr. Spock talking when you play Startrek? I would also use the same system to save all the programs and all my secret files. In this case the analog part may be of no great value, but my stereo on the second floor just might announce: "We are now loading a version of TINY PASCAL dated April 1, 1977." Anyway, my point is, don't limit such a great system to "Music Tapes" or to "Home Stereo."

Another nitty gritty: On Page 5, you seem to imply that the $\$ 199$ and the $\$ 299$ packages from Triple I also include two tape transports. From what I know, only the $\$ 189$ package includes two transports. You get only one transport in the deluxe model packages.

Sincerely yours, Linchen Wang

I debated phrasing the article in this more general applications context, but decided to keep the main article "narrowminded" and merely point out the much more general applicability of the system I outlined. II did so because I didn't have the time or space to discuss the wider applications in the detail that If felt would be necessary to a more generalized article.

Yer right on how many transports are included in each package. The $\$ 189$ package includes two fixed-speed transports, but the $\$ 199$ and $\$ 299$ packages include only one transport. What's worse, the prices have gone up . . . but they're still a good deal (see Phi-Deck article elsewhere in this issue).

## WE HAVE SPEECH SYNTHESIS SOON: SPEECH INPUT

We hear . . . straight from the quadraped's mouth ... that a speech recognition experimentation system will be placed on the market early next spring. In kit form, it will cost well over $\$ 500$ and will plug into the $\$ 100$ bus.

## PUBLICATION DETAILS DESIGN OF A CONTROL PROCESSOR FOR A MICROCOMPUTER NETWORK

The Computer Systems Synthesis Group out of UCLA's Computer Science Department has recently released a 231 page tech report by R. Fenchel entitled, "A System Control Processor for a Microcomputer Network." It discusses the design of a control processor for such a network, to be used as an education tool in a computer science lab. You can probably obtain a copy without cost (while they last) by writing the CS Department in the School of Engineering \& Applied Science, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

[^0]
# USE RN ACOUSTIC COUPLER TO READ/WRITE TAPE CASSETTES 

Jim Warren, Editor
Steve Moore* just phoned in a hot idea. Why not use a data communications modem or acoustic coupler to read from and write to audio cassettes?

Here are the advantages: By doing so, suddenly all of the "recording standards" problems disappear. The standards for couplers and modems have been accepted and in use for some years - and are well debugged. Why waste our time haggling over which homegrown standard to adopt, when we can "steal" the standards that have been proven in industrial use for well over a decade?

Couplers and modems are specifically designed to interface to a byte-oriented digital device. Plenty of them are around that are already built to plug into a 20 mA current loop or RS-232 standard interface. It should be a simple matter to modify the master/slave circuitry (see the "gotchas", next section) so they can talk to a computer instead of a terminal. (Quick! - all you hardware fanatics: send in the hardware details to guide us naive systems fanatics in making the necessary changes).

Modems and couplers have been around for so long that a number of them are on the used equipment market. Some months ago, Walt Gruninger at the Minicomputer Exchange ( 154 San Lazaro Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086, 408/733-4400) told me that couplers could easily be had for about $\$ 100$.

It's a quick way to gain hardcopy facilities when you have no hardcopy device. Here's how: have your system dump a text file into your kid's $\$ 19.95$ audio cassette via a coupler or modem. Take the whole thing over to anybody's couplerequipped time-sharing terminal. Play the tape into the coupler (via a telephone handset that you scrounged from a surplus phone), and watch the pretty hardcopy be printed. The cassette tape is just acting as a hand-carried "telecommunications system."

Once the coupler or modem is interfaced to your coupler, of course it can easily be used for telecommuning with another computer or a central program and data storage facility. Such central repositories are already being discussed as (1) a good solution to the problem of home computers having access to continually updated programs and data, and (2) an appropriate project for any of the larger clubs (if "hams" can get together in constructing co-op relay stations, why can't we cooperate in building machine-accessable central repositories?)

A quick check with an old analog engineer friend, down in Silicon Gulch, assured me that using this technique to handle data-rates up to 300 baud would present no problems, even when using el-cheapo cassette units and audio tapes. Note that this is the same (rather slow) data-rate as the "Byte standard." It is obviously no problem since, after all, couplers are rated up to 300 baud and are explicitly designed to function reliably over scuzzy, unconditioned, lowest-bandwidth telephone lines. Modems are currently available that will run up to 9600 baud over conditioned phone lines. My analog friend hedged somewhat on whether or not such higher data-rates would present problems on audio tapes. Again, I call on you hardware types for the necessary details to make this fantasy a reality.

And now, the hidden gotchas: First of all, the garden variety acoustic coupler is built with the electronic protocols for its analog end to slave to a master computer over the telephone handset, and its digital end to speak in full-duplex or halfduplex to a terminal. Its protocol circuitry must be modi-
fied so that its digital port will be the slave to the computer and its analog part connect to the "terminal cassette." Alternatively, one might purchase a "master modem" that is normally connected to a time-sharing computer; however, these are considerably more expensive, probably have unneeded bells and whistles, and are less available on the used market.

If trouble appears in the analog end of this system, it will be considerably more difficult for the novice to debug and fix than is the case with strictly digital circuitry, or with the Byte or Tarbell cassette standards. If you use an acoustic coupler, you must homebrew a connection between it and the record and playback "I/O" of your cassette. This may require some amplification circuitry.
Now it's up to you. It is an interesting and valuable project that is obviously well within the limits of current technology and a hobbyist's budget - a realizable fantasy. When you get it up and running, why not share your implementation with everyone via an article in DDJ? Incidentally, the quicker a computer-coupler interface becomes widely available for home computers, the quicker we will see the creation of the machine-äcessable program and data repositories that I mentioned earlier - yet another "realizable fantasy."

*Steve Moore is a consultant with Moore Research, P.O. Box 1562, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 441-1890.



## ITALICS IN VIDEO DISPLAYS

One possible enhancement of character generation in TV typewriters is the incorporation of an italic mode. The same ROM could be used to produce the basic dot patterns for both italics and non-italics, only the character timing would change. Figures 1 and 2 show how text strings would look in both modes. In the italic mode, successive lines of each character would be displayed with a different time delay. Assuming a 7 by 9 dot matrix, the first line of each character (i.e., the top line) would be displaced by 4 dots to the right. Line 2 would be displaced by 3.5 dots (i.e., three and a half dot-clock cycles), and so on. Line 9 would have no displacement. A shift register IC could be used to implement the displacement, and an embedded control character (such as CTRL I) could be decoded to turn the mode on or off. The regular and italic modes could both be used in the same line of text with appropriate control of transitional timing, although this would complicate the logic required.


Figure 1. Regular Mode


Figure 2. Italic Mode

## SCROLLING MOD FOR TVT-2's

## Dear Sirs,

Oct. 7, 1976
The TVT-2 is the most popular video terminal used by computer hobbyists today. Until now, the users have had to settle for the 'page concept' with their terminals. Your readers might be interested in the fact that now they can add scrolling to their TVT-2. A fully assembled scrolling modification board (model SM-2) is available from Lenwood Computer Systems, P.O. Box 67, Hiawatha, IA 52233. A complete set of instructions is supplied. The cost of the SM-2 is $\$ 20.00$ plus $\$ 1.50$ for postage and handling.

Thank you for your time.
Jay G. Francis
P.O. Box 67

Lemwood Computer Hiawatha, IA 52233
Systems

## 64 X 32 VIDEO DISPLAY KIT

## Gentlemen:

I thought that some of the $D D J$ readers interested in video displays might want to look into a kit sold locally here in Dallas. It is a $2 \mathrm{~K} \times 8$ bit parallel I/O ( 32 lines of 64 chars); it may be optioned for RS232 also.

The main reason for going to this unit was because of the several control codes that allow blink by code and blank. The blank/unblank allowed me to not only not use up my own rather limited core (RAM, actually), but to use the screen for extra RAM, as the unit will operate at machine speed - I'm using the INTEL 8080 prototyping kit.

Readers interested can write to the company at this address:

IOR
P.O. Box 28823

Dallas, TX 75228
Sincerely,
D. Moore

Dallas, Texas

## 64-CHAR MOD FOR TVT-II'S, NOW \& SCROLLING, SOON

Gentlemen:
We would like to thank you and your readers for the interest in the TVT-11 64 character modification article that you published in your No. 6 issue. The response has been tremendous. After experiencing some initial problems with typo errors and delayed shipments we are now meeting with your 3 week delivery schedule. On November 1 we found it necessary to increase the price of our boards to $\$ 6.50$ for the 64 character board and $\$ 13.50$ for the 2 K memory boards. Printing costs have also required us to charge $\$ 2.00$ for the instructions if requested without ordering the boards [a corrected copy of the necessary instructions is now available].

We have received many requests for a scrolling modification for the TVT-II and we are happy to announce that we will have one ready to ship out before the end of the year. The board is set up such that only five jumpers are required to install it. This was accomplished by having the board plug into sockets which replace IC's 34 and 41 on the mainframe. These IC's are relocated on the mod board. The board gives bottom line scrolling with the new line coming up clean. Normal or scrolling modes are switch selectable with the scrolling not beginning until the page is full. Line feed is disabled when in the scrolling mode. It appears that the board will retail at $\$ 20.00$ with sockets and instructions although this is not yet firm.

Thank you,
David O. Valliere
Digital Designs
Box 4241
Victoria, TX 77901

## VTT GROUP BUY

Dear Jim,
Oct. 27, 1976
In response to our conversation on the phone today, here are all the details on the VT4000 group buy. There are two different buys available at this time. One is the VT4000B, a complete crt terminal with a Motorola 12" monitor, completely assembled, tested and ready to use. The second is for the do-it-yourself types. It consists of the five PC boards without parts, the power supply and the cabinet for the VT 4000A. To qualify for the group buy price, we will have to buy at least 10 of the buy or buys we choose. To try and clarify further, we cannot combine the two to get a total of 10 . If the minimum of 10 is not reached by 15 January 1977, all money will be returned. To qualify as an order, full payment must be made at time of order.

Prices:
VT4000BA Assembled Terminal regular retail 999.95
less 20\%
199.95
$800.00+6.5 \%$
state tax $+2 \%$
TOTAL
868.00

Bare bones lit separate parts regular retail
240.00 less 10\%
.24 .00
$216.00+6.5 \%$
state tax $+2 \%$ handling fee
$\overline{234.36}$
The above prices include delivery in the Bay Area, outside the Bay Area will be sent freight collect. If shipped outside Bay Area subtract $1 / 2$ of the handling charge.

Make checks payable to: Video Terminal Technology. Mark on lower left of check: Homebrew Computer Club Buy. Send orders to:

Norman Walters
3107 Laneview Dr.
San Jose, CA 95132

## NEW COSMAC COMPUTER

At last, someone has come out with a microcomputer based on the RCA 1802 (COSMAC) and suitable for many hobbyists. Produced by Infinite, Inc. (Box 906, 151 Center St., Cape Canaveral, FL 32920), this machine has a 4 -digit hex readout and integral hex keyboard. Standard on-board memory comprises .256 bytes of RAM, externally expandable to 64 K . Additional features include DMA as well as serial and parallel I/O. Assembled and tested, the price is $\$ 395$ with case and power supply, $\$ 249.95$ for a complete kit, or $\$ 179$ for just the MPU board.

## MILITIA MAY AID HOBBYISTS COMPATIBILITY PROBLEMS

Dear Jim, Sept. 7, 1976<br>You are probably aware of the WESCON Session II paper described in the attached extract from Electronic Design (below). Looks like the military may be giving us a hand with standardization.<br>I enjoyed meeting you at Personal Computing "76.<br>Best wishes,<br>Joe Gilbreth 1229 Vista Lane Birmingham, AL 35216

Recommendations for use of a common bus system will be made in Session 11, but in another context-for the standardization of military microprocessor systems. That will be proposed in a Session 11 paper, "Compatibility Among Families of $\mu \mathrm{Ps}$ ", by Hank Malloy, military program manager, Intel Corp. Malloy is also chairman of a newly organized task force on military microcomputer LSI, which is sponsored by the Electronic Industries Associates and the National Electronic Manufacturers Association.

To achieve any kind of standardization it is essential that bus structure characteristics be specified, Molloy will argue. Also, high-order languages will have to be used.

An example of how such languages can contribute to standardization, Molloy will point to PL/M. Two popular 8-bit $\mu$ Ps are the Intel 8080 and Motorola's 6800. While PL/M was generated by Intel for the 8080, PL/M compilers are available to translate the syntax into object code for the 6800. [And Signetics 2650.]

The EIA/NEMA task force will study drafts of two new MIL-M-3851 microprocessor detail specs, the /400 for Motorola's 6800 and the /420 for Intel's 8080.

## MORE COMMENTS ON PROC.TOLOGY SOFTWARE, PLUS SOME NOTES ON CASSETTE TAPE QUALITY

Dear Jim,
$D D J$ has become the best newsletter for the computer hobbyist. None of the commercial magazines can approach the wealth of information you provide. I enjoy every issue, especially the letters. Keep up the good work. [Aww, geee fellas . . .]

Some more comments on Processor Technology software. I think the PT people have done a great job providing reasonably priced software. It seems that their programs are not thoroughly debugged. The source listings for FOCOL and BASIC do agree with the paper tapes.

The problem with the PT BASIC INT function mentioned in $D D J$ No. 8 can be corrected as follows:

AINT LDAX B
SUI 129
JP AINT1
XRA A
MVI D,5
$\begin{array}{lll}\text { AINT2 } & \text { STAX } & \text { B } \\ & \text { DCX } & \text { B }\end{array}$
DCR D
JNZ AINT2
STAX B
RET
Thanks for Fred Greeb for this fix.
In addition, I've come across two more bugs:

1. Formatted print will not work with fractional values.

Example $-\% \mathrm{Z} 2 \% \quad$ Variable $=1.097$ Output $=1.10$ OK
Variable $=.097$ Output $=.0010$ OOPS!

## FRIDEN DOCUMENTATION FOR $\$ 10$

Dear Editor,
Oct. 31, 1976
Some months ago I purchased a Burroughs-Friden Printer-Keyboard and the associated interface electronics on the surplus market. The model number is $9530-2$. The cost was in the vicinity of $\$ 300$, and looked like a pretty good deal for a hard copy unit. The major shortcoming is the lack of any documentation. For effective use of the unit with home computers some changes are necessary, but are virtually impossible to accomplish without adequate documentation. I spent nearly all of my spare time for the last half year on the incredible task of deciphering the circuits on the interface boards. There are over 300 integrated circuits (obsolete types) on the boards. It was the hardest puzzle that I ever worked on.

It is likely that there are other computer freaks who have bought similar units and are in need of documentation. For $\$ 10$, I will send a copy of my documentation to anyone for his or her personal use. The documentation includes comments on almost all of the inter-board wires and logic diagrams of the boards and typewriter switches. It does not include explicit instructions for modification of the boards for home use, but perhaps I can generate that later.

Sincerely,
Robert L. Smith 2300 St. Francis St. Palo Alto, CA 94303
Does anyone have original manufacturer's documentation for these units? - Editor

## \$3000 FOR 2,400 LINE PER MINUTE PRINTER

Houston Instruments has 80 -column and 132 -column printers that print up to $2,400 \mathrm{lpm}$ and up to $1,400 \mathrm{lpm}$. They say their interfacing is explicity designed for easy connection to micros.

Houston Instruments is located at 1 Houston Sq., Austin, TX 78753.
2. When a variable in a FOR/NEXT loop is decremented and becomes zero it is not recognized as zero.
Example - 10 FOR I=2 TO -2 STEP -1

## 20 IF I=0 THEN . . .

The relation on line 20 never becomes true. The zero is apparently a "negative zero" since

20 IF ABS(I) $=0$ THEN . . .
will work.
If any of the $D D J$ readers have a solution I'd like to hear from them. A letter to PT regarding these problems has not been answered.

Realistic Supertape has been recommended in some hobby magazines as suitable for digital data recording. The October 76 issue of Consumer Reports contains a test of audio cassettes. Recording music and digital data are not directly related. However, it is interesting to note that Supertape was rated below average in two important factors - output uniformity and freedom from dropouts. From personal experience I'd have to agree with the test findings.

The four top rated cassettes were BASF Studio Series, Maxell UD-XLC60, Scotch Master, and TDK Super Avilyn SAC60. I'm not sure this can be printed in DDJ since it is copyrighted info.

Happy computing.
Adolph P. Stumpf 5639-A Ute
Glendale, AZ 85307
[My impression is that one may copyright text, not information. - Jim]

## THINKING OF OPENING A COMPUTER STORE?

Before you do, consider the following financial figures. These were generated in September, 1976, by an independent team of professional cost analysis consultants. They are projected or "reasonable expectation" figures for two classes of computer stores; a $\$ 20 \mathrm{~K} /$ month store and a $\$ 30 \mathrm{~K} /$ month store (gross). They are based on a number of in-person and in-depth telephone interviews with a large number of existing computer stores.

## NEW CANADIAN COMPUTER STORE

The Computer Shop (of Calgary) is a brand new store serving the Canadian Rockies and western plains area. They carry a number of product lines, and hope to offer some of their own Canadian-made products in the near future. Austin L. Hook, The Computer Shop, 3515-18th St., SW Calgary, Alta., T2T 4T9, Canada, (403) 243-0301.

## "PERSONAL" COMPUTERS ARE SHOWING UP IN SCHOOLS

The San Jose Unified School District is busying 14 Western Data Handlers, assembled. It already has ten IMSAI's and a Polymorphic. It has originally been considering expanding a PDP-8 into a TSS-8 system, but decided to purchase these 25 computers, instead - for the price of that TSS-8 expansion.

Furthermore, Bob Albrecht noted, "SMRT won't hurt San Jose." (SMRT is the Single Message Rate Tariff that Pacific Telephone is about to inflict on users of business telephones who make lengthy calls. See August, 1976, DDJ.)

| Gross Sales | $\$ 20,000.00$ | $\$ 30,000.00$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Cost of Goods Sold |  |  |
| Gross Profit | $\frac{20,400,00}{13,600.00}$ | $6,400.00$ |

Sales Expenses:

| Personnel Advertising | 10.00 |
| :--- | ---: |
| Salaried Employees (2) | 1500.00 |
| Bonuses | 150.00 |
| Royalties | 1000.00 |
| $\quad$ Subtotal | $\$ 2675.00$ |

15.00
1500.00
250.00
1500.00
\$ $\$ 3240.00$
Operating Expenses:

| Advertising (2\%) | 400.00 | 600.00 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Automotive | 35.00 | 50.00 |
| Dues \& Subscriptions | 7.50 | 7.50 |
| Entertainment | 10.50 | 25.00 |
| Equip. Rental | 30.00 | 40.00 |
| Insurance | 75.00 | 75.00 |
| Interest | 7.50 | 10.00 |
| Office Supplies | 10.00 | 20.00 |
| Postage | 17.50 | 25.00 |
| Printing | 20.00 | 30.00 |
| Prof. Service (Ace/Lease) | 75.00 | 75.00 |
| Rent | 450.00 | 600.00 |
| Taxes | 35.00 | 50.00 |
| Telephone | 100.00 | 150.00 |
| Travel Expense | 50.00 | 75.00 |
| Utilities | 50.00 | 75.00 |
| Subtotal | $\underline{1373.00 /}$ |  |
| Net Profit (11.7\%) | $\underline{2352.00}$ | $(13.8 \%)$ |
| Monthly |  |  |

Yearly
$\$ 28,224.00$
$\$ 41,550.00$


## JIM McCORD REPORTS ON THE LSI-11

Dear Bob and Jim,
Oct. 7, 1976
To follow up my conversation with Bob of a couple of weeks ago, this is to tell you about the LSI-11 stuff.

At last count there were about 15 people in the S . Calif. area who were using the LSI-11. II understand that there are about an equal number in the Bay Area. Other than those two groups I know of no other "large" bodies of hobbyists using the machine, although there are undoubtably isolated people around the country who bought them from various distributors. Perhaps an announcement in PCC or Dr. Dobb's will help pull us together.

The S. Calif. group bought their machines from a company called Applied Information Development, a subsidiary of SDC. AID is apparently building something that incorporates the LSI-11 and is selling the components partly as a way to get their own unit costs down. We got a $25 \%$ discount of quantity one price with a $\$ 5 \mathrm{~K}$ order, and some smaller orders have since been filled at the same discount. Whether they would still do this for other groups I do not know, but probably they would. (Amateurs pay cash.) I have also seen other distributors advertising "club discounts" on the LSI-11. By the way, we went this route after trying for almost a year to put together a group of 50 people to buy directly from DEC and never succeeding.

There is a common belief that the LSI-11 is too expensive for hobbyists. I don't agree. For about $\$ 1 \mathrm{~K}$, you can get a processor, 8 K bytes of memory and a serial I/O card, and a backplane, fully assembled to industrial standards, that works when you plug it in. It took me 15 minutes to go from box to teletype. The machine has a very nice monitor, and for an extra $\$ 100$ or so you get hardwired fixed and floating point instructions, for those who are into that. Plus, you get the very elegant and powerful instruction set of the PDP-11, all of the system software that has been developed for the 11 (at a price, of course), and the DECUS library which is full of 11 software and is going to get a lot fuller. All in all, I think it's a pretty good deal.

There are some disadvantages, of course. If the machine breaks you probably have to ship it back to DEC for repair. (DEC claims a very long MTBF, but who knows?). I don't know what a nominal repair charge would be. Until somebody builds a LSI-11 - to - Altair bus interface, we won't be able to use all the neat hobby peripheral cards. Memory is somewhat more expensive than for hobby machines, although it too comes fully assembled and checked out from a variety of vendors. You have to supply your own power supply and box, although that isn't a big deal. Also, some of the most desirable software like the BASIC interpreter is still pretty expensive. I think DEC should consider releasing the papertape stuff to DECUS - probably they have recovered the cost by now! In all, though, I think that the LSI-11 has a lot to recommend it to the hobbyist, particularly to those who are more into programming than hardware.

So far no really creative applications for the machine have emerged from our group, since most of us are still working on developing auxiliary hardware like terminals and stuff. Peripherals include a few TVT's and TTY's, papertape readers and punches, and cassettes. Three of us have built the InteColor 8001 intelligent color terminal kit and are using it as our main I/O device (that's a story for another day). The peripheral that most of us would like to get is, of course, a floppy disk, but so far we haven't found anybody who makes an affordable controller for the LSI-11. That shouldn't be too far off, though.

Anyone who has an LSI-11 or is interested in one is welcome to write to me. So far there is no organized newsletter for the machine but undoubtedly one will emerge when enough people are interested. DEC will create a DECUS Special Interest Group (SIG) for hobby users of the 11 or 8 or both, which would take care of nuisances like printing and mailing, but we need a few

## POSTSCRIPT TO 'COPYRIGHT MANIA'

Dear Jim, Aug. 25, 1976
I am writing this letter as a postscript to the article 'Copyright Mania' in the May issue of Dr. Dobb's. I became rather attracted to TRAC (trademark of Rockford Research, Inc., and don't you forget it) and therefore wrote to Mooers asking for information regarding the development of a TRAC processor. Two months later, 1 received a copy of a 'License Agreement for permission to use Rockford Research copyrighted writings on TRAC language in academic experimentation.' What it consisted of was an agreement that Rockford Research would not sue me if I signed the agreement and sent them $\$ 10$. That (the promise that they won't sue me) is all I get for my $\$ 10$ (manuals are another $\$ 15$ ). Also, once I finished the TRAC processor I could not: "publish, reproduce, resell, lease, give, lend, circulate, or license the . . . [TRAC processor]... . or any portion thereof in any manner or on any medium, which shall include but not be limited to copies, tapes, films, computer program library deposits . . ." (there was about a paragraph more). Anyway, that rules out sending to $D r . D o b b$ 's, which was my idea for the processor from the start. The agreement also wanted me to agree not to challenge the Rockford copyright.

In short, I have no objection with a person or group copyrighting a program, but this seems a bit excessive.

Thanks for the time, and keep up the good work.
Yours,
Chris Pettus
PO Box 611
Malibu, CA 90265

## PRAISE FOR PALO ALTO TINY BASIC \& TINY

 TREK, AND A QUIBLET ABOUT THE VDM SOFTWAREDear Jim, Oct. 5, 1976
PALO ALTO TINY BASIC and TINY TREK have to be the best $\$ 4.00$ investment I ever made! I'd like to recommend it to all Dr. Dobb Dobb's readers. (For further details, refer to $D r_{0}$. Dobb's, May 1976, with an addition of software for a VDM display in June/July 1976.)

The tapes came back within 4 days from the Community Computer Centre (which must be a record for 'Trudeau's Turtles'), and everything worked immediately. The abbreviating possibilities of P.A.T.B. really make for conpact programming ( $P$. instead of PRINT, for example), in conjunction with multiple statements per line.

One thing I would have liked to have seen would have been simple strings for inputting and outputting words, names, etc., but one can't have everything in less than 2K, I guess. (Any chance of Li Chen Wang re-considering . . .?)

I haven't had too much use out of TINY TREK - mainly because my kids won't let me have a turn! However, the times that I have played, I have thoroughly enjoyed it, and it ranks up there with the other versions I have played (STARTREK, and STARTREK 3D on an AMDAHL 470). As a matter of fact, it is extremely difficult to win, and that increased the enjoyment (with the frustration).

Another problem in using the VDM software given in June/July 1976 Dr. Dobb's, is that when listing a long program the screen goes zzzip! and all you catch is the last few instructions that remain on the screen. A delay, or a hold feature would be nice.

Still, for 6K of memory I have hours of fun - or at least my kids do. I'm reduced to playing after lights out for them. What the heck can I do with my other 10K?

Sincerely,
Basil R. Barnes, VE6BB Box 1226
Bonnyville, Alberta
CANADA, TOA OLO
P.S. Can I obtain Mr. Wang's address? [Dr. Lichen Wang, 150 Tennyson Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301, (415) 321-6983]
more users before that becomes reasonable.
See ya,
Jim McCord
3710 State St.
SysteMetrics, Inc.
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

## P.S.

Jim, thanks for the stuff on PerSci. They had an ad in Interface this month, offering drive and controller for just over a kilobuck. It's a really fantastic intelligent controller, requiring practically no support software in the host machine. If I can't find a compatible controller for my 11, I may go this route, writing my own drivers.

## A GOOD RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS ABOUT TARBELL TAPE UNITS

## Dear Jim,

Sept. 19, 1976
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to reply to the notes about my cassette interface in your Volume 1, Number 8 issue.

I believe that no product is ever perfect, so I continually revise both the documentation and the interface itself. Since I started delivering these units over a year ago, I have gone through four revisions of the boards, and at least six revisions of the manual. These changes were largely the result of complaints, suggestions, and returned survey forms, which are at the end of each manual. The first ten kits especially, were followed very closely, and the owners were asked to immediately inform me of any problems they had with either the manual or the board. In this sense, the kits were "tested on persons unfamiliar with the device."

Although I realize that the term is a relative one, I don't feel that the implementation of this device has been at all "sloppy." Of course, I've had my share of problems, like any of the other manufacturers, but I've made every attempt to follow up what I consider good design practices, and to make the system as clean as possible.

Unfortunately, I did have a run of boards that had bad plated-through holes, and got through my inspection undetected. I have since discontinued my relationship with the manufacturer that produced these boards, and selected another. My first revision D cassette interfaces were delivered September 3, 1976 (before Dr. Dobb's Number 8). The boards in these kits, one of which is enclosed, are far superior to the previous ones, and the plated-through holes look beautiful. Revision D also includes all the latest modifications, including several unused inputs connected to pull-up resistors. The connector pin alignment has also been corrected slightly.

Several months ago, I contracted with someone to completely rewrite the manual. The rough draft is now being reviewed, so it will probably be ready to print in about a month. This manual provides new information, such as siagrams for all the integrated circuits, step-by-step instructions for the beginner, and a more thorough theory of operation section. Although my present manual is not in a professional format, I am proud of the fact that it is chockfull of the kind of information a hobbyist needs to get his interface up and running and useful. The new manual will be even better, and some of the pages have already been added to the present manual.

One page of the manual starts: "If you cannot make at least ten 8 K -byte transfers with no errors, you have a problem, and the items below may be of some help:" This is followed by several items to check. The last two items on this page state: "If you still have problems, please return the unit, preferably with your cassette recorder, and I will get it operating perfectly for you without charge. If you are completely dissatisfied, you may return the interface for a refund within 90 days after you accepted delivery."

I don't know if there's another manufacturer that stands behind his product like this, but I think it attests to my confidence in the Tarbell Cassette Interface. I have not charged one penny for repairs yet, and in all the units I've shipped, only one has asked for (and received) a refund. I sincerely believe that most of the people with these units are completely happy with them.

I completely support your suggestion to write or phone me directly. Please-if you have problems with your interface,
and we can't seem to get it going over the phone or by mail, send it to me for repair. There have been some units that have been difficult enough to repair that I've actually supplied a replacement unit, at no cost. I don't really see how you can lose when you buy one of my interfaces.

Sincerely,
Donald E. Tarbell
(213) 832-0182

## Tarbell Electronics <br> 144 Miraleste Dr., No. 106 <br> Miraleste, CA 90732

## CONFERENCE ON COMPUTERS IN HUMANITIES

Papers and participation are being sought for the Third International Conference on Computers in the Humanities to be held Aug. 2-5, 1977, at the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario. Send papers or abstracts to Prof. Paul Bratley, Dept. D'Informatique, Universite de Montreal, Montreal, Quebec H3T 1 J4 by January 15, 1977.

TARBELL PRAISE, A FANCY DISASSEMBLER, \& AN APL CHARACTER QUERY

Dear DDJ,
Sept. 26, 1976
Just a quick note on the Tarbell interface about which you say you have been receiving a lot of complaints: mine worked the first time I tried it, and refused to drop so much as 1 bit when fed by a tape recorder with a variable speed control. I could go $20 \%$ slow, and about $10 \%$ fast, with no trouble. Only by intentionally trying, could I get it to drop a bit to see if my checksum toutine was working. In daily use for about 2 months, it has dropped a bit only once. It is a fantastic peripheral. I use it to back up floppy disks as it is the only device that is 1) fast enough; 2) cheap enough; 3) reliable enough. I had no 'non-plated-thru hole' problems. A friend says Tarbell left some TTL inputs floating, which capses noise susceptibility, but I have not had this problem.

Keep up the fantastic work on supplying the hobbyist community with public domain software, and P.S. are you interested in a disassembler which I wrote and commented? It is 8080 based, uses sense switches to determine when to generate instructions, when to generate DB's with ASCII, or DB's with hex. It can be used as a one-pass process to just see object, or can be used as 3 passes: 1) every address reference (JMP, LXI, CCLL, etc.) is placed in a symbol table compatible with Processor Tech Package No. 1;2) a pass to edit the symbol table and change default labels (Lxxxx) into meaningful ones if you have some knowledge of the source code-this pass is entirely optional; 3) do the actual disassembly, with most labels put in, and all LXI's, JMP's etc. referencing labels. The output is a source listing, and optionally, using a sense switch, writes the source in a format compatible with Processor Technology Package No. 1.

I would appreciate you publishing a note asking if anyone knows a source for APL character generators which could be retro-fitted to a VDM.

Sincerely,
Ward Christensen $\quad 688$ E. 154th St.

$$
\text { Dolton, IL } 60419
$$

Yes, Yes, Yes! Send us your super disassembler-including, of course, user documentation, at least nominal internal documentation, and annotated source code.

What sort of disc system are you using and how do you like it? (And, may we publish your reply?)

What sort of printer and printer software are you using? [The original of this letter had an unusual type face, and was left \& right justified.]

- Jim


## TARBELL TOUTED

About the Tarbell interface: I have two of them (since I have two machines) and they both work great. I recommend them.

However, neither of them worked right off. One was an early type and needed fixes; the other had a bad board and needed fixing. But Tarbell gets them right back (a couple of weeks) and they're great!

In fact, most of this stuff doesn't work immediately. None of my stuff has worked right off. That's why you should buy from someone who will back his merchandise. I've bought some used equipment and have regretted it. When you buy, buy quality and mentally add 25\% for repairs unless you know at lot about this stuff that I don't know.

Say, what's your experience with molex pins for IC chips? I've not used them but I hear they work okay. Sure sounds better than buying sockets at 50 cents each.
Jim Leek

## 2801 F

Bakersfield, CA 93301

## TARBELL TRICKY

Dear Jim,
Oct. 8, 1976
A few weeks back you asked for user comments on the Tarbell Cassette Interface. Here are mine, based on a not-yet-up-and-running board.

When I first put the thing together, I had trouble getting the sync light to come on at all. So I sent the board back to Don Tarbell, asking for help. He corrected a few errors, made some modifications to the circuit, and sent it back to me - no charge. I still had some trouble getting the unit to read in data, even after setting it up with the aid of the sync light, and set it aside until I could get hold of a scope. The scope showed that adjustment was even more critical than the instructions would indicate. I was getting a good sync light reading over a wide range of settings, but the waveform was stable for only a very small range. That problem corrected, I could read in data, but still had substantial numbers of errors. I've pretty well stopped at that point, since business is taking me out of town too much to concentrate on a solution.

My observations:

- The interface is sensitive and error-prone. I assume this is the price one pays for the high speed.
- A scope is nearly essential to correct problems. This is true for all computer applications, actually, but this was the first of six boards I've assembled that required more than a little initial prodding.
- Don is good to his customers. I have no qualms about calling him if I can't get the error problem corrected, but want to put in my own best efforts before bothering him further.
- An article in DDJ mentioned that the user has to figure out that a start byte is essential. True. This can be a real problem if you don't use Don's programs, because that's the only place mention is made of it.

In short, I have mixed emotions. I appreciate the potential speed of the interface and Don's integrity in backing his product. But I would have been much farther along in getting a system running with a slower, but more fool-proof (literally) unit. Right now, I'm still using console switches, since I can't use the keyboard effectively without reloadable software.

Sincerely,
Jim Wilson San Diego, CA

Dear Jim,
Oct. 14, 1976
A P.S. to a letter I wrote a few days ago about my experiences with the Tarbell cassette interface unit:

It is now up and running, apparently reliably. My solusion finally was to hook it up to my hi-fi tape deck through an old Lafayette stereo amplifier that was going unused. I then used an oscilloscope to remove as much of the distortion as possible by adjusting the bass and treble controls.

This is obviously a pretty unwieldy solution. So when I finish some more important things, I plan to buy a cheap audio amplifier with tone controls (something less than 10 bucks), and use it for a more permanent installation.

Sincerely.
Jim Wilson
San Diego


## IMSAI "INCOMPATIBILITY"

## Dear Jim,

Oct. 14, 1976
I have just entered a real-life description of "compatibility". While trying to figure out why a simple three instruction program would not work as documented in the Intel 8080A manual being executed on my IMSAI 8080 , I discovered that the flag bits (as stored in memory via PUSH PSW) were not as Intel describes.

For openers, bit-5 and bit-3 are supposed to be ' 0 '. On my IMSAI 8080 bit- 3 was always ' 1 ', and bit- 5 fluctuated with, as yet, no pattern sometimes being ' 0 ' and other times being ${ }^{6} 1$ '. At this time I played around a bit and found that the XRA A instruction did not work as documented. At this point, I contacted IMSAI.

Very quickly, I was put in contact with Mr. Bruce Holloway of IMSAI. After Bruce confirmed that strange things were happening with his IMSAI 8080, he researched the problem and reported the following: (my interpretation follows)

These IMSAI 8080's use a NEC 8080A chip instead of an Intel chip. NEC reported in a confidential letter to IMSAI some "minor" differences between their chip and Intel's. At all times, the chips were stated as being software compatible. The software differences are: (1) Flag bit-3 is always ' 1 '; (2) Flag bit-5 is set ' 1 ' on subtract-type operations, and is reset ' 0 ' on add-type operations; (3) The CY (carry) and AC (auxiliary carry) flags are now properly set for both adds and subtract operations; (4) The DAA (decimal adjust) operation now works properly following either an add or a subtract (using flag bit-5); (5) THE AC FLAG IS NO LONGER CLEARED BY LOGICAL OPERATIONS. Additionally, Bruce mentioned that there are also some "minor" hardware differences, having to do with data on the same bus not being present at the same states as with the Intel chip (I wonder what problems this might cause?).

When I heard all of this, I informed Bruce that the fact that the AC flag is not cleared means that software written for an Intel chip would not work on the NEC chip. For example:

MVI A, 9
ADD A this forces the AC to be set
XRA A this is supposed to clear AC and CY
DAA this should result in ' 00 ' but produced ' 06 ' with the NEC chip!!

At this point Bruce agreed with me since he has written similar code that would not function properly with the NEC chip. Bruce has informed me that this incompatibility was not known previously.

Well, in the span of the last three days, I have uncovered an 8080A "compatible" chip that is, for all purposes, as incompatible to the Intel 8080A as is the Z-80: programs can be written that will run properly on the Intel 8080 A , but will run properly on the NEC 8080 A , and vice-versa.

I am now waiting for the Intel 8080A IMSAI will be shipping shortly. What really disturbs me is not the imcompatibility itself, but not being informed. I don't believe that NEC should claim their chip to be "compatible", but I abhor the fact that their letter describing these differences was labeled CONFIDENTIAL and not released to the end user of their chips.

I hope that this letter may save some people untold hours debugging a program that doesn't work because of the NEC chip. Hopefully, IMSAI will refrain from using such incompatible chips on MPU boards, and will exchange customers'

NEC chips for truly compatible chips, or at least distribute the NEC 'confidential' documentation.

Sincerely,
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Glenn S. Tenney } & \text { Compro } \\ \text { Sr. Designer } & \text { 2111 Ensenada Way } \\ \text { (415) } 574-3420 & \text { San Mateo, CA. } 94403\end{array}$

## IMSAI RESPONDS

Dear Mr. Warren, Oct. 18, 1976
Following is the letter promised per our telephone conversation of October 15, 1976. We will be sending this information to all past and future customers who may have the NEC chip.

All of the features described in the following synopsis were designed by NEC to improve the 8080A chip.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Very truly yours,
IMS ASSOCIATES, INC.
Marvin Walker
14860 Wicks Blvd.
General Manager
San Leandro, CA 94577
(415) 483-2093

## SUMMARY OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN I8080A AND uPD8080A

1. During an interrupt, an RST or CALL instruction is accepted by both both processors. With the uPD8080A during M2 and M3 of a CALL instruction, the INTA status signal remains active. The I8080A requires the use of an 8228 to generate INTA by decoding 02H (all status inactive). Both 18080A and uPD8080A work correctly with Intel and NEC 8228/38.
2. Interrupt during HALT state, with the uPD8080A INTE is reset at T2.02 of the next clock period following the sampling of INT, as opposed to the I8080A where INTE is reset at M1.T1. 02 of the interrupt instruction fetch.
3. Instruction Execution Times: All instruction execution times are the same except the following, which require the listed number of $T$ (clock) states assuming no wait cycles.

|  | I8080A | uPD8080A |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| MOV r,r | 5 | 4 |
| RET | 10 | 11 |
| DAD | 10 | 11 |
| XTHL | 18 | 17 |
| SPHL | 5 | 4 |

4. Data on Address Bus during M1, T4 and T5 with uPD8080A is the same as during T1-T3. With the 18080A, the Address Bus is undefined during T4 and T5.
5. Subtraction is performed as a direct binary operation in the uPD8080A and the carry, Auxiliary Carry and subtract flags are properly set to indicate the subtract operation and borrows from each four bit nibble for use with the DAA instruction.
6. DAA instruction works correctly, directly following both addition and subtraction operations with uPD8080A, while 18080A BCD subtraction must be performed by a sequence of additions and subtractions.
With uPD8080A, three flags, Carry, Auxilliary Carry and SUB, are used for DAA operation, both for addition and subtraction (see Section 8). Carry and Auxiliary Carry are properly set to indicate borrows/carries from each four bit nibble for use with the DAA instruction. SUB flag is used to determine whether required DAA is for addition or subtraction. BCD arithmetic programs written to run on I8080A will also run on uPD8080A unless the operations ORA, XRA, ORI, XRI, INR, DCR or DAA are depended on to affect the AC flag. Also see Section 7.*
7. Flag Registers for 18080A and uPD8080A are as follows:

|  | $D_{0}$ | $D_{1}$ | $D_{2}$ | $D_{3}$ | $D_{4}$ | $D_{5}$ | $D_{6}$ | $D_{7}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| I8080A | $C$ | 1 | $P$ | 0 | $A C$ | 0 | $Z$ | $S$ |
| uPD8080A | $C$ | 1 | $P$ | 1 | $A C$ | $S U B$ | $Z$ | $S$ |

Note that if the flag byte is pushed on the stack to be used as a byte in any operation such as a compare, that the value will be different for the I8080A and the uPD8080A.
8. All flags are set the same for 18080A and uPD8080A except as noted.
A. Number of Flags:

18080A: $\quad \begin{aligned} & \text { Five flags } \\ & \\ & \text { Zero Carry }\end{aligned}$
uPD8080A: Six flags
SUB is sixth flag (subtract)
*We suggest the use of a SUB A to clear the AC and Flags, since the
common XRA A does not clear the AC flag on the uPD8080A.

```
SUB flag is:
        set by . . .DCR, SUB, SBB, CMP, SUI, SBI
                        and CPI
                            reset by. INR,ADD, ADC, ADI, ACI and
                            DAD
affected by POP PSW
```

B. Affect on Flags:

Except as noted, the affect on the five common flags ( $Z, C, S$, $P$ and AC) are all the same for I8080A and uPD8080A.
18080A: AC is affected by INR, DCR and DAA
$A C$ is reset after logical operations ORA, XRA, ANI, ORI and XRI
AC is not always set correctly to indicate borrow from bit 4 after subtraction. (Subtract is performed by two's complement and only Carry is complemented to indicate correct borrow.)
uPD8080A: AC is not affected by INR, DCR and DAA
AC is not affected by logical operations
AC is always set correctly to indicate borrow from bit 4 after subtraction.
9. Status information for 18080A and uPD8080A is the same except as follows: During HALT Acknowledge, D7 (MEMR) I8080A = 1, uPD8080A = 0; during Interrupt Acknowledge while HALT, D3 (HLTA) I8080A $=1$, uPA8080A $=0$; and during CALL instruction following interrupt, DO (INTA) during M2 and M+ for I8080A = 0 and for $4 P D 8080 A=1$.
10. Pull-Up Resistors on the Data Bus: The uPD8080A does not utilize active pull-up resistors on the Data Bus. To make interfacing easier on the DATA BUS VIN MIN $=3.0$ volts for the uPD8080A vs. 3.3 volts for the 18080 A . With uPD8080A, DATA BUS input leakage current is the same as any other input.
11. The temperature range for the $18080 A$ is $0-70$ degrees $C$. and for the uPD8080A is -10 to +70 degrees $C$.
12. DC characteristics are the same except as noted:

|  | 18080A | uPD8080A |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{V}_{1 \mathrm{H}}$ | 3.3 Min. | 3.0 Min. |
| $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{OH}}$ | - | 3.5 Min. @ $1 \mathrm{OH}^{=-1.0 ~ m a ~}$ |
| ' DD (AV) | Typ $=40$ | Typ $=55$ |
| IDD (AV) | $\mathrm{Max}=70$ | Max $=75$ |
| ${ }^{\prime} \mathrm{CC}(\mathrm{AV})$ | Typ $=60$ | Typ $=50$ |
| ${ }^{\prime} \mathrm{CC}$ (AV) | $\mathrm{Max}=80$ | $\mathrm{Max}=70$ |
| ${ }^{\prime} \mathrm{DL}$ | -2.0 ma Max. | $\pm 10$ ua Max. |
| ${ }^{\text {IFL }}$ | -100 ua Max. | $\begin{aligned} & -10 \text { ua Max. @ } V_{\text {IN }}= \\ & V_{S S}+0.45 \mathrm{~V} \end{aligned}$ |

13. AC characteristics are the same except as noted. See data sheet for details:

| tD01 |  | 18080A | uPD8080A |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | output delay from 01 low (SYNC,DBIN) |  | 160ns Max. |
| ${ }^{\text {t DS }} 2$ | data setup time to 02 during DBIN | 150 ns Min. | - |
| trs01 | ready setup time to 01 high INT set up time | - 02 | 240ns Min. |
| tis |  | During 02 for all modes except HALT mode | During 02 for all modes |
|  |  | During 01 in HALT mode |  |

14. All instructions are executed in the same sequence except $\times$ THL. The uPD8080A first reads the top of the stack then writes the contents of the $L$ register into the top of the stack, next it reads the data at the stack pointer +1 , and then writes the contents of the H register into the stack pointer +1 . The I8080A reads the stack twice then writes the stack twice.
15. Data on Data Bus During T4 and T5:

18080A: The contents of the internal bus during T4 and T5 are available at the data bus.
uPD8080A: Data Bus is in the high impedence state during T4 and T5
16. HOLD Operation while DAD: 18080A: Same timing as HOLD in Write mode, i.e., HLDA appears from 01 of the state following T3, and Address/Data Bus goes into floating state from 02
uPD8080A: Same timing as HOLD in Read mode, i.e., HLDA appears from T3-01 and Address/Data Bus goes into floating state from T3-02.

## NEC RESPONDS

Dear Mr. Warren:
Nov. 2, 1976
We recently received a copy of a letter sent to you by a Mr. Tenney, and feel that it is appropriate for us to respond. We hope that this will eliminate any concerns your readers may have about the use of the NEC $\mu$ PD8080A.

All the differences between the Intel I8080A and the NEC $\mu$ PD8080A are clearly stated in our $\mu$ PD8080A Family data sheet and $\mu$ COM-8 Software Manual. These documents are available through any of our distributors, representatives or NEC Microcomputers, Inc. These documents clearly enumerate the additional features which lead to the improved performance of the $\mu$ PD8080A, both in simplified code and faster execution.

However, a user need not utilize these features in his program. If the application program is written for the Intel 8080A, it will run on the NEC part except for a few very limited situations. For an example, all NEC PDA-80 and Intel MDS-800 programs operate properly using either part, as do all system programs in the IMSAI 8080 and the Altair 8800 to the best of our knowledge. It is obvious from the differences that one can create sequences of code that do operate differently in several of the 8080A's on the market today, but most of these do not represent useful sequences of application programs.

As far as the CLAIMS we make as referred to in Mr. Tenney's letter, we do claim as explained above that the $\mu$ PD8080A is "compatible", Upward Compatible! This is an improved part and we do not believe that our or IMSAI's customers should be limited to the functionability of the 8080A when an improve part is available. We are concerned that some people do not understand the advantages of the $\mu \mathrm{PD}$ 8080A. Therefore, we encourage you to print this letter for your readers.

If there is anything else we can do to help you in this matter, please contact me.

Very truly yours, David F. Millet Technical Staff Microprocessors

NEC Microcomputers, Inc. 5 Militia Dr. Lexington, MA 02173

## TSK, TSK . . . OUR HEADLINE WAS ONLY OFF BY A FACTOR OF 1000

## Dear Jim, <br> Oct. 12, 1976

Many thanks for your nice article about our super duper, low priced magnetic tape storage products on Page 6 of your September issue. Only one thing wrong with it: You're guilty of overbyte in the headline. Our maximum capacity is 60 Kilobytes, not Megabytes. The text had it right. [Must have been "a computer error." - Ed.]

Two problems, come to think of it. Your second paragraph says that we manufacture only the drive and cartridges. Not true. In addition to the drive and cartridges, we also make what we call a digital OEM system. Unfortunately; the OEM system sells for $\$ 390$ in single quantity, which is a byte much for the non-manufacturer to chew.

Yours very truly,
Irma R. Johnson Vice President

Micro Communications Corp.
80 Bacon St.
Waltham, MA 02154

# Product Review: POLY-88 -AN EXCELLENT SYSTEM 

PLUS NOTES ON SOME S-100 "GOTCHAS" -- CATCH 16 HEX
by Jef Raskin
Box 511, Brisbane CA 94005 (415) 467-4674

In our last "Gotcha" a few manufacturers were taken to task, and fewer still were praised for the quality of their products and documentation. This time we take a brief look at the familiar Altair and IMSAI chassis, and a long look at the very interesting Poly 88.

I refuse to revive the old Altair vs. IMSAI debate. As everybody now knows, the old Altair power supply was feeble. My Altair worked fine after I had replaced its supply with a custom 40 amp at 8 volt wonder. [In an external box that should never land on your foot.] I actually liked the Altair case better than IMSAI's, and am glad to see MITS has carried the design over to its new machine. Just two screws and the top slides off. If the screws are omitted, the case is just as strong to top loading. On the IMSAI there are four load bearing screws which I could never get at because something was always sitting alongside the computer. If the screws are omitted, the top sits rather low. Not good.

Since I get letters asking: Yes, the heavy duty supply on the IMSAI is excellent. I haven't tested the new MITS supply, but it looks good. I don't think they'll make the same mistake twice. After all, if they're smart enough to make a computer

I find a serious flaw in the IMSAI front panel. Those big paddle switches that make the IMSAI look sort of like a PDP11 have a small space between their tips. IMS should take note, as it prevents errors, and still makes it easy to hit two at once on purpose.

The Poly 88's almost S-100 bus (hobbyist bus, Altair bus, I could care less) has the best switches of all: there aren't any. Polymorphic Systems, in Goleta (rhymes with "Lolita") California makes this very unassuming little box that does a lot of things right, which the bigger names (with bigger boxes and price tags) are doing wrong. Not that Poly is perfect. My corrections to their manuals were extensive and numerous. But they listen harder. For example, when I called up IMS with a long list of carefully annotated errors in their manuals, they put me off, promised to call back, never did, put me off when I called again, etc. In the end, my careful documentation of their manuals did them no good at all, and frustrated me. Polymorphic Systems listened, sent me extra manuals so that I could send them mine with corrections and the like. They're not dumb; they've got a proof reader working for free. It is my opinion that manufacturers should hire a proof reader before sending manuals out, but the way that is now used is cheaper and only has the drawbacks of having a few hundred frustrated customers out there. And, they get hundreds of phone calls of the form, "Where does R21 go?" (Maybe the phone company is behind the bad manuals.) The Poly- 88 system - which has replaced my Altair 8800 and my IMSAI 8080 - has but two controls on the box. An onoff switch with a power-on indicator light, and a reset button with a halt light. That's all you get; that's all you need. It surely doesn't look impressive. Sort of like a toaster in size and shape. The Poly is by far the easiest of the $\mathrm{S}-100$ bus computers to build. The backplane and power supply are all on one well-designed motherboard. The only wires leading to it are from the transformer and the front panel button via two Molex connectors. It is all very neat with almost no point-to-point wiring. Someone was thinking when they designed this one. To take the backplane/motherboard out, just pull the two connectors and undo six easy screws (which go into captive nuts on the board, nothing to get lost inside). Have you ever tried to take out an IMSAI backplane? More
screws than an X-rated movie, and then there are wires screwed onto the board. Dumb.

For some reason Poly's tiny little case requires eight screws! A bother. The kind of thinking that went into the electronic design was absent when the case was created. It is on such small shoals that great ships are wrecked. There are more bolts than slots. There are 5 slots. Is that enough? Let's see, one for the CPU, one for the video board (it's a dandy), one for a ROM board to hold something comfy, like BASIC, and, say, a 16K RAM board. With a Pixie Verter and a keyboard you're ready to go into any American household with a TV, plug in and program away. And you've a lot left over another 16 K ? Voila! (or 'Cello! for that matter) we have a 32 K computer with serial port, cassette interface, video interface, and software aplenty, power supply and on/off switch tucked away in our viola case. I must mention that a two-port serial interface is built into the CPU, and the RS232 and cassette interface cards are snug against the connectors in the back of the case. That is a lot of computer in an itty-bitty base.

That isn't enough? You say you have a pile of old 4 K boards? I do. Poly has the Idea of the Year (at the rate we get new ideas in this business, maybe the idea of the month): At one side of the chassis the backplane terminates in a male $\mathrm{S}-100$ bus connector. On the other side of the chassis is a female connector. Aha. You can buy another chassis, put it alongside the one you already have, sort of nudge them together and guess what. Nope, you don't get a litter of 4040's. You push them together and you get . . . a ten-slot chassis. Actually, eleven slots 'cause you can put a card into the end and let it stick out instead of yet another chassis. This is useful and saves need for an extender board. The power supplies are separate and not bussed together. Like the IMSAI this machine has a substantial power supply. They rate it 6 amps at 5 volts. I loaded it down with 9 amps worth of boards and a length of nichrome wire and it was still putting out 8.2 volts. The point is, as you expand the chassis, you expand the power supply as well. Each expansion chassis costs $\$ 155$. Takes two or three hours to build. Polymorphic Systems forgot (so typical of manuals) to tell you that R6 should be omitted on slave chassis. So I tell you.

Before I find some drawbacks (I am not in the employ of Poly) there was an advantage to the multiple chassis that I hadn't suspected when I ordered the miniature monsters. When working on a board, sometimes it's handy to have a program sitting around, but it disappears when you turn off the power to make a change on the board. But with the separate chassis idea, you put the CPU and memory in one box, the board under test in another. Just turn off the one chassis to remove the board, make the changes, replace and turn on the chassis. Program still there, testing continues.

Not all is peaches and cream . . . The diodes supplied with three of the four I've built-you know, the little ones for the plus and minus 16 volt supplies-were small signal diodes instead of power rectifiers. The smoke test lived up to its name. A quick trip to Radio Shack (it was Sunday) got me a handful of diodes of the right rating. 20 for $\$ 1.98$ or something like that. The first one I tested was bad. But there were 21 in the bag! The other 20 were good, so no complaint there. But, dear reader, always test.

The assembly instructions were terrible. There were as many many errors as the other brands had [see DDJ, Vol. 1, No. 8].

Lots. They say they're coming out with a new manual. If it's any good, I'll probably write it up. Volume II of the instructions, however, is on the side of the Angels. This is the clearest manual on the 8080 instruction set I have ever seen. I leave it on the living room floor for people to pick up and read. It's that good. Someday I may even get a coffee table for it. So if you want to learn the 8080 , get that manual. Maybe some magazine will serialize it (in good serial style: "Last month our hero got saved from the evil Dr. Halt when an interrupt arrived in the nick of time . . .").

What is life like without a front panel? Sheer joy, my friends, sheer joy. You can deposit, examine, single step, everything. You can do it in style, from a keyboard. When you single step you see not only the address and the contents (and in hex, not in binary [less than joyful to those who prefer octal]) but you also see: the accumulator, the flags, the B-C register, the D-E register, H and L , the program counter and the stack pointer.

And you also see the first eight bytes of the stack, the location the PC points to, the next seven bytes thereafter, and the eight bytes pointed to by each of the B, D and H registers. It certainly beats lights; it also beats the hex displays found on a few other machines.

I hate to say this, but the Polymorphic advertisements understate the advantages of their machine. Too bad for them. It should be clear that the conventional front panel is a holdover from an earlier era. It's too bad that those lights and mysterious switches appeal to so many of our computer cult. Like those famous tailfins on cars, it impresses the neighbors, but doesn't make the machine run better. Of course this goes for all the ROM replacements for front panels. Having both a front panel and a ROM monitor is fine; you just have to pay for it.

For just under $\$ 600$ you get, with the Poly system, the bos, power supply, video board, the monitor in ROM, 512 words of RAM, room for 3 K more of ROM, and all the sockets you need for the ICs. Of the S-100 bus machines, it is the only one where the minimal system has to do real programming. ( 0 ' course, you have to add a keyboard and a TV monitor - but nobody includes them for the price.) Enough free advertising for Poly. I am not so much interested in selling computers for them as I am in seeing my computer cousins not wasting their time flipping switches and misreading lights. Any system (as I said) with HEX display is better for a human being than the same system with a BINARY display, and of the S-100 systems available this week, the Poly will get more done per your hour than any of the others that's building hour, programming hour, and even earning hour. Other manufacturers, if you've got a better system, tell me about it. Don't bother, unless you use the S-100 bus (so we can go to others than just you for add-ons). But, do tell me if you've got something really different like 8 K for $\$ 50$.

A disadvantage of not having the conventional front panel (after all this, I do know one disadvantage) is that the CROMEMCO Bytemover program won't work. It needs switches. You can get a parallel port and eight switches and wire it up for port address FF, but that's a bother. So I called up CROMEMCO (if their documentation had been better this would not have been necessary) to find out how to write a 2707 EPROM without their program. The method, they told me, consists of writing each PROM in its entirety, from beginning to end, a number of times. Say a hundred to three hundred times. "How many times does the Bytemover write each PROM?" I asked. "Thirty-two," I was told. So I wrote a little program that wrote the stuff into all the PROMS 255 times (you can guess why). It worked. I sold my PROM containing the Bytemover program. [Another disadvantage of no switch register is that it means the user has no sense
switches, often useful in man-machine interacting programs. - Editor]

There are a few devilish "gotchas" in the Poly system. The first problem showed up in trying to run MITS BASIC (duly purchased from MITS). Since the monitor likes to reside in low memory, and so does BASIC, there was a conflict. The solution: Poly provides a jumper to cut, and one to add to allow you, under program control, to switch back and forth between the processor-board memory ( 3 K ROM, $1 / 2 \mathrm{~K}$ RAM) and other memory having the same address. In my case the program that copied BASIC from PROM resided at location E400, so I used the following program to get BASIC up: 3E 20 D3 04 C3 00 E4
The seven bytes say: put 20 (hex) into the accumulator, then send it to port 4 . Sending the 20 to port 4 turns the onboard stuff off. The next three bytes of the program jump to E400 to get the program started. Now, of course, that little program is on the PROM.

The next problem was with the old MITS serial board. I've always wondered why some serial boards have a crystalstabilized clock of their own since they could just count down from the CPU's clock signal which is on the bus. That's what the old serial board did - it counted down. PROBLEM! The clock rate on the Poly system is a few percent slower than the MITS and IMSAI clock. So the old MITS serial I/O counts down to the wrong baud rate. You have to (as I did) rewire all the counter presets. You will have to calculate the proper values. Since my computer wasn't up 'til this was fixed, I was glad to have my Model-T vintage HP-35 to do the necessary calculations. The newer MITS 88-2SIO (a fine board in my book) does it right and has its own crystal (and works like a charm in my Poly, without modification).

And another, almost unforgivable error on the Poly: it is not quite an S-100 system. Sure, everything I tried with it worked except for that one board. But when a manufacturer came by my place with a prototype of their new 16 K board and plopped it into the Poly it didn't work. A few "unimportant" outputs and inputs to the CPU were left off the bus. More importantly the WAIT signal is not on the bus. This let the memory know that the computer was in the HALT state, which the memory needs to know. This is not the place to go into that (gotta leave something for other articles). This particular device did not need the other signals but some new board might. The point is this: you are either on a standard or not on a standard. There is no in-between. Polymorphic Systems' Poly 88 is not really an S-100 computer. You have to ask first: does the board you wish to use with it require separate disables (address, status, data out)? Does it need HLDA, INTE, WAIT? If it does, then the Poly won't do. The disables are on the bus, in non-standard locations, but they can only be disabled as a group (as required by DMA's). One of the output signals such as WAIT can be fed through a spare buffer on the board to the bus. (For your information it's IC 8 , an 8 T97. Because this is DDJ I'm sure the editor will permit the gory details.) Bus lines $22,18,23$, $26,19,28$ and 27 are not on the bus. To put WAIT on the bus, jumper pin 24 on the 8080 to pin 2 of IC 8 , and pin 3 of IC 8 to bus line 27. I don't know if I've missed something else that should have been on the bus. I called Polymorphic Systems; they tell me that are putting out a list of differences, and plan to connect the WAIT as I suggest. It's the least they can do.

Another problem with the Poly is that when a number of chassis are plugged into one another, the cooling, adequate with a single system, becomes inadequate. Not only does the system look like a toaster, . . . My friend, Kent Strother, made a cardboard enclosure with a super quiet ROTRON fan (as per the IMSAI). Now even the regulators run cool. The secret: put the fan on top, sucking up, thus forced air aids natural
convection. There are slots around the periphery at the bottom of the case, and all other openings are sealed, forcing the air to pass the boards and transformer. Not enouth attention has been given to air flow in the IMSAI or the ALTAIR 8800 which both have a lot of stagnant air spots even with the fan going. Kent also designed a cardboard case for the keyboard that used to lie around naked. Call us the Cardboard Computer Company. It's cheap, in keeping with our homebrew budget, and if done carefully looks surprisingly good.

Second, a word for the Poly video board, but first, a word for the Processor Technology video board. The PT VDM is a top-notch piece of equipment. Their check-out procedure as you put in the chips is a classic of good manual writing. The VDM board I built worked perfectly. The Poly video board suffers from drawing current at the hairy edge of what the regulator can handle. What I like about it is the relatively fine graphics it allows: a 128 by 48 bit resolution. The graphics can be mixed with alphanumerics in any arbitrary way. It is a good use of that eighth bit that the ASCII code doesn't require. Use of the Motorola MCM6571AL character generator gives me upper and lower case Roman characters as well as the Greek alphabet and a gaggle of other special characters, including the entire official ASCII set, the square root symbol, etc.

I don't know enough to write articles like this without some help from my friends so: thanks to Doug Wyatt, my constant colleague on microcomputers, Kent Strother for the cardboard craftsmanship, Steve Calebotta for finding the problem with the missing WAIT, and out editor Jim Warren for the phrase "Hidden Gotchas" that graces these articles [who plagerized it from Dave Wyland at Ratheon]. If you find any hidden, or just plain hanging out gotchas, send them to me. I'll check them out and include them in a future article. You'll get credit in the mag, and as much moola as I get. Zilch. [Ahhh . . . but such glory and fame you get!]

## PRAISE FOR RASKIN \& SUGGESTIONS FOR DDJ

Sept. 25, 1976
I just read the very informative articles by Jef Raskin ["A Bit of Wheat Amongst the Chaff"-a critique of problems found in a number of kits] in the September issue and think it is the greatest aid to the hobbyist planning on purchasing his computer system. I certainly feel that both Dr. Dobb's and Jef Raskin have done a great service for the hobbyist. Please publish more articles like this one. If Jef has inputs on software by all means let's hear them. Jef's appraisal was, I believe, very objective.

In order to make more room for articles of value I would like to see you eliminate as much as possible the references to new clubs and new stores which I feel are more than adequately covered elsewhere, i.e., Byte, Interface, On Line, etc. If you must how about a one-liner like On Line. [These items are used only as "filler" items.]

You might consider using smaller type for all articles in order to make room for your backlog of articles to be published. [We're willin'. Are there any objections to dropping from 10 -point type to 8 -point type?]

It might also be appropriate to eliminate items such as the article on Energy Publications which does not seem to be pertinent to the subject matter of $D r$. Dobb 's. [This also happened to be a filler article of the right size. However, we do admit to a soft spot in our hearts for the topic of energy problems and people-oriented alternative energy sources. Our only excuse for its inclusion is that it is a technology-related subject closely associated with consumer advocacy.]

Also, did you really need two pages for the PCC ad? [PCC newspaper was Dr. Dobb's mama. Would you have us ignore our ma? Anyway, it's a "product" we think is well worth the attention of hobbyists, and as such, we published details about it.]

All in all, I think Dr. Dobb's is great, but it can be better. [We agree.]

Very truly yours, 11 Linda Rd.
R. I Demrow

Andover, MA 01810

## SWTPC KEYBOARD IMPROVEMENTS

## Dear Jim,

Here's a plug for the latest in keyboards from SWTPC. For those of us whose only experience with SWTPC keyboards is with the original ones, the bad memories may make one a bit leery about giving them another chance. The new KBD-5 has much better contacts than before, and it uses the 2376 keyboard encoder which makes it a cinch to redefine keys. At $\$ 50$, plus another 10 for a UART + to make it standard serial RS-232, this is the best possible buy I can imagine.

Bob Powell

22 Bunker Hill Run
E. Brunswick, NJ 09916

## A [WELL DESERVED] RAVE REVIEW FOR THE APPLE COMPUTER SYSTEM \& FACTORY RESPONSIVENESS

Editor, Journal of Dentistry
Oct. 11, 1976
Dear Jim,
Last July I found out about the miracles the silicon engineers were performing. I was immediately hooked on home computing. But since I had very little experience with computers, I was worried about all the delays that everyone seemed to complain about when they returned equipment for serving or clearing up the inevitable bugs.

After spending the summer carefully examining the systems available, I went to the PerCom convention in Atlantic City at the end of August. There I saw an Apple computer working. Well, it was love at first sight. I bought one from Itty Bitty in Evanston and took it home with me to New York. Well, it took them three weeks to send me two cables and two transformers and a keyboard that were needed to run it! When they finally arrived (after a prompting phone call), my Apple developed a glitch almost immediately (the only Apple that the Computer Mart of NY has ever seen with a problem!). Fearfully anticipating a two-month delay, I sent it to Steve Jobs at Apple Computer Co. He got it back into my hands in two weeks working perfectly!! He even explained an elementary error in a simple program I had tried! Since it took me over a month to even get literature from Sphere (and I wrote them a personal latter) or the Digital Group, this must be a record for a personal computer company.

My Apple is terrific. Last night I loaded your 6502 floating point routine and can now multiply, etc. Unfortunately all the answers are complemented. I've got an 8K system with a cassette storage unit, keyboard, (used) TV monitor, and a 4 K BASIC (that's not quite finished yet but does run) for less than $\$ 1 \mathrm{~K}$. Moreover Apple promises (and I'm now a believer) to replace my current memory chips with the new $4 K$ dynamic chips sometime next spring for about $\$ 500$. The Apple was designed to be pin compatible with the new chips and so l'll have 32 K on board.

Any company that can produce equipment like this and then match it with their service is really great. Companies like them and magazines like yours make home computing an accessible field for everyone.

Yours,
Raymond T. Hoobler 789 West End Ave. New York, NY 10025
[Apple Computing is at 770 Welch Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94304, (415) 326-4248]

PRAISE FOR SUNSHINE COMPUTER CO.

Dear Editor,
Nov. 24, 1976
A commendation is in order for Sunshine Computer Company of Carson, California. I bought a Sanyo cassette recorder from them on Saturday, Nov. 20. They forgot to pack in the AC cord. When I discovered the omission Saturday night, I made a note to call them Monday about it. Sunday night they called and apologized, and said they'd mail it Monday. Received it Tuesday; postmarked Monday, as promised. Total time to resolve my query: minus one day. Sincerely, Jim Raehl.

943 Begonia
Escondido, CA 92027

Bob Van Valzah

## It's an APL . . .

Dear Jim, Sept. 12, 13, 15, \& Oct. 2, 1976
Here is my entry in the hobby software field. It's a tiny language called CASUAL. That's the Chicago Area Small Users Algorthmic Language. Here are the design goals used:

- Must run on any 8080 system with a terminal and 2 K of RAM starting at 000000 .
- Complete machine control is possible - inputting from and outputing I/O ports, memory READ and WRITE (PEEK and POKE), machine language CALL.
- 16 bit everything - line numbers, expression values.
- Arrays
- String I/O
- One tape works on any system - POKE's itself for most popular I/O boards (like MITS BASIC).
- Deletion of unwanted features at initialization time.

Note: The source tape alone is $2 \frac{1}{2}$ inches think (fan fold), somewhat greater than 75000 characters at this time.

I am currently at version .164. Version 09 was distributed to local hobbyists three weeks ago. That version was 200 bytes longer and had some small bugs.

While I don't have the time or the means for mass distribution of CASUAL, binary paper tapes and documentation are available from:

1. CACHE Software Library, Lloyd Smith, 530 Pierce Ave., Dyer, IN 46311
2. Chicago Computer Store, Lou Van Eperen, 517 Talcott

Rd., Park Ridge, IL 60068
3. Itty Bitty Machine Company, 1316 Chicago Ave., Evanston IL 60201
4. American Microprocessor, Ed Cooper, at the Chicago

Land Airport, 20 N. Milwaukee Ave., Prairie View, IL 60069.
Converting CASUAL to other CPU's:
If you're using a machine without a hardware stack, I'd say start from ground zero. CASUAL makes extensive use of the stack and almost no use of memory direct instructions. By putting CASUAL's stack on my VDM, I was able to count 48 bytes on the stack while LIFE was running. Perhaps an 8008 with hardware stack mod wouldn't be too bad, but it would take a lot more than 2 K .

Memory Info: If all features are retained at initialization, 403 bytes are left in a 2 K system. If all features are deleted, 610 bytes are left (slightly over $1 / 2 \mathrm{~K}$ ). The code for the interpreter, $\mathrm{I} / \mathrm{O}$ drivers and all buffers except the CASUAL Program buffer takes 1.61 K . If all functions are deleted, it takes 1.40 K . The first 1 K can be ROM or protectedafter initialization.

The mnemonics for the assembler have been significantly modified from the "Intel Standard" mnemonics.

Loading Time: It takes about 5 minutes to load and initialize itself at 10 CPS. Using a Tarbell Cassette Interface at maximum baud rate, it should take about 4 seconds.

Dr. Dobb's is superb!!! Keep up the fine work! Bob Van Valzah 1140 Hickory Trl.
(312) 852-0472 (Home)
(312) 971-2010 Ext. 231 (Work) Downers Grove, IL 60519
P.S. I'm 18 years old and entering my second year working for an EE degree.

## It's CASUAL!

NOTES ON MY ASSEMBLER

| MY OPCODE | INTEL STANDARD |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| LB H | MOV | B,H |  |
| SP < > HL | XTHL |  |  |
| DE < > HL | XCHG |  |  |
| SP $<$ HL | SPHL |  |  |
| LXI HL LABL | LXI | H,LAB |  |
| JFZ | JNZ |  |  |
| JFS | JP |  |  |
| JTS | JM |  |  |
| JTZ | JZ |  |  |
| LCI 010 | MVI | C,10 |  |
| ND E | ANA | E |  |
| OR A | ORA | A |  |
| STHL | SHLD |  |  |
| LDHL | LHLD |  |  |
| LAI "G | MVI | A,'G' |  |
| CAL | CALL |  |  |
| XR A | XRA | A |  |
| SU E | SUB | E |  |
| SB D | SUC | D |  |
| DSD | DW |  |  |
| DSS | DB |  |  |
| 177 | 177Q |  |  |
| 0100 | 100 |  |  |
| LBUL=072 | LBUL | EQU | 72 |
| NDI 300 | ANI | 300Q |  |
| CP M | CMP | M |  |
| * 200 | ORG | 200Q |  |
| INA | INR | A |  |

NUMBERS
All numbers without leading zeros are taken as octal, all with leading zeroes are taken as decimal. "开" preceding a number causes it to be taken as hex.

## REGISTER SYMBOLS

Eight bit registers are referenced with the letters $A, B, C$, $\mathrm{D}, \mathrm{H}$, and L. Register pairs are designated by PSW, BC, DE, HL, and SP.

## OPERATORS

- Subtraction or unary minus
+ Addition or unary plus
, Swaps the first and second bytes of a 16 bit quantity
" Evaluates to the ASCII equivalent of the character following it, with the eighth bit low
Evaluates to the address of the first byte of the instruction about to be assembled


## CASUAL

GDOI AND BAI FOIHTS
16 EIT LINE N！MEERS， 1 － 65534
LINE－HUMEEREI＂EASIC－LIKE＂TEXT EDITOR
CONTROL C（AC）AEORTS EXECUTION AND LISTING
3 EYTE LINE OVERHEAD
IMMEIIATE EXECUTIOH MODE
MULTIFLE STATEMENTS PER LINE WITH COLON（＂：＂）
FRINTS LITERAL STRINGS．EXFRESSIONS，OR CHR FUNCTION
CRLF SUPFRESSIUH AVAILAELE
OHE LEVEL OF SUBROUTINE NESTING EUILT IN，EASILY EXFANDED FEEK／FUKE FUNCTIUNS FOR READING OR MODIFYING MEMORY IHF－OUT FUHCTIOHS FOR I OC FORT CONTROL
GIhgle and mouele EyTE frrays－single immehsional
SELECTAELE ARRAY EASE ADDRESSES FOR MULTIPLE ARRAYS
$S$ IMPLE VARIAELES $\hat{H}-Z, 26$ OF THEM
USEF DEFIHABLE FUNCTION，LIKE DEF FNA（X）
RUE－GUT TAKES EACK LAST CHARACTER TYPEII
CONTROL U STU）ABORTS LINE EEING TYPED
てこ－CHARACTER LINE INFUT EUFFER
FOUR（4）RELATIONAL OFERATORS，＜，$=,>, \#$（HOT EQUAL）
HO OVERFLOW CHECKING ON MATH FUNCTIONS
15－BIT SIGNED ADD，SUBTRACT，MULTIFLY，AHD DIVIDE
STAHDARD EXPRESSION HIERARCHY，RELOFS THEN＊， ，THEN＋，
FAREHTHESIE TO ALTER HIERARCHY，NO LIMIT ON HUMBER
SPARES MÄY BE INSERTED FREELY TO IMPROVE CLARITY
OFERATUR TO FROVIDE REMAINDER AFTER LAST DIYISION DFERATOR TO FROVIDE RESULT OF LAST EXFRESSION MACHINE－LANGUAGE CALL FUNCTION
SIAGLE－CHARACTER KEYEOARD INPUT FUNCTION
RUN，AND RUH LINE NUMEER COMMANDS
LIST，AND LIST LINE NUMEER COMMANDS
NEW COMMAND CLEARS PROGRAM STORAGE AREA
NDTHIHG CLEARS VARIAELE VALUES，NOTHING ！！
JUMF TO OPERATING SYSTEM FROVIDED
InITIALIZATIOH DIALOGUE A LA MITS
COMFLETE WITH EQOTSTRAF AND EIHARY LOADERS（AUTO TRANSFER） LDOD ERROR MESSAGES
FUNS IH 2K COMPLETE，＞ 400 BYTES LEFT IN A $2 K$ SYSTEM CASUAL IS SLOU

CASUAL DOCUMENTATION

CASUAL IS AN INTERFRETER URITTEN IN 3080 ASSEMELER． CASUAL IS hLSO THE NAME OF THE SYNTAX WHICH IS ACCEPTED BY THE INTERFRETER．

GNCE CASUAL HAS EEEN LGADED AHD THE IHITIALIZATION DIALOGUE COMPLETED，IT WILL TYFE OUT＂CASUAL $V$ ．XX＂， WHERE $X X$ IS THE YERSION HUMBER．THEN CASUAL WILL ENTER THE COMMAND INFUT MODE．THIS IS INDICATED BY THE PRINTING OF A PERIOI（＂．＂）AS A FROMFT CHARACTER，CASUAL IS NOW READY TO ACEEFT A LINE OF INFUT FROM THE USER．THE USER MAY EACKSFACE OVER TYFING ERRORS WITH THE RUB－OUT KEY． HE MAY ELECT TO START THE LINE OVER EY STRIKING THE CONTROL U 《个U）KEY．WHEN THE USER IS DONE WITH A LINE，HE STRIKES THE CARRIAGE RETURN KEY，TELLIHG CASUAL TO PROCESS THE LINE JUST TYFED．DURING LINE INFUT，ALL OTHER CONTROL
CHARACTERS WILL EE IGHORED，EXCEPT COHTROL G（ $\uparrow G$ ）（BELL） CASUAL HAS THE ABILITY TO EXECUTE COMMABIS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEY ARE TYFED，OR TO STORE THEM AWAY FOR LATER EXECUTION AS A PROGRAM．CASUAL WILL SCAN THE IHFUT LINE FOR THE FIRST NON－BLAHK CHARACTER．IF THIS CHARACTER IS A NUMEER：CASUAL WILL SAVE THIS LINE IN THE CASUAL FROGRAM BUFFER IF IT IS NOH－NUMERIC．CASUAL WILL ACCEPT THE LINE AS AN IMMEDIATE－MODE COMMAND．AND ATTEMFT TO EXECUTE IT．

## EDITING

IF LINES ARE INFUT TO CASUAL GTARTING WITH NUMBERS，
THEY WILL EE EDITED IHTO THE CURREHT FROGRAM IN THE FRUGRAM EUFFER．LINES ARE ALWAYS STORED BY LINE NUMBER IN ASCENDING ORDER．THE INFUT：

3 3．$=55535$
1 ？ 2 ING
20 ？TEST；
WILL BE SAVED AS：
1 ？？ING
2 ？TEST，
$30 .=55.535$
CORRECTIONS CAN BE MADE GFTER A LINE HAS BEEN
ENTERED EY RETYFING THE CORRECTED LIHE WITH THE SAME humber as the bad ohe．the new line will reflace the old une uf the sfme numeer．new lines may be inserted EETINEEN OTHER LINES，AT THE EEGINNINE，OR END OF THE FROGRAM EUFFER．THE USER SIMFLY GIVES THE NEW LINE A NUMBER BETJEEN THE NUMBERS OF THE LINES ABOVE AND BELOW IT． LINE NUMEERS MAY BE IN THE RANGE 1 TO 65534 INCLUSIVE．

THE USER MAY LOOK AT ALL OR PART OF THE PROGRAM
CURRENTLY STORED IN THE CASUAL PROGRAM BUFFER BY USING THE LIST COMMAHD．WHILE IH THE COMMAHD MODE，TYPING＂L＂（CR） WILL START LISTING WITH THE LOWEST－NUMEERED LINE，AND STOF AT THE END OF THE EUFFER OR WHEN CONTROL C（AC） IS TYFED．TYFING＂LXXXXX＂WILL START LISTING AT LINE Kxス天X．

CASUAL STATEMEHTS
THE FOLLOWING SECTION WILL COVER ALL THE STATEMENTS WHICH GRE LEGAL IN CASUAL．AS EACH STHTEMENT IS FRESENTED． EXGMPLES UILL EE GIVEN OF ITS USE．IF POSSIBLE，I RECOMMEND TRYING THESE EXAMPLES AS THEY ARE ENCOUNTERED．

CASUAL HAS EASICALLY OHLY THREE（3）TYPES OF STATE－ MENTS：PRINT，ASSIGHMENT，AND STRING INFUT．THIS IS ONE OF THE REASOHS FOR ITS IHHERENT SIMPLICITY．VARIATIONS OF THESE THEEE STATEMENT TYFES PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF FUNCTIONS．

## THE PRINT STATEMENT

THE FUHCTIOH OF THE FRINT STATEMENT IS TO SEND DATA TO THE USER＇S TERMINAL．SINCE THE WORD＂FRINT＂IS MORE DIFFICULT TO RECOGNIZE THAN A SINGLE CHARACTER，A QUESTION MARK（＂？＂）IS USED TO SPECIFY THE FRINT FUNCTION TRY THIS：

```
?10-4 (CR)
```

> CASUAL WILL IMMEDIATELY PRINT:

6

AS YOU CAN SEE，CASUAL RECOGNIZED THE＂？＂AS BEING
A FRINT STATEMENT，EVALUATED THE FORMULA FOLLOWING
IT，ANI TYFED OUT ITS VALUE（IN THIS CASE 6）．
OF COURSE，CASUAL CAN DO MORE THAN SUBTRACT．
TRY THIS：
？10＋4：1日＊4；10：4（＂＊＂MEANS MULTIPLY，＂＂＂MEANS DIVIDE）
CASUAL WILL TYPE：
$14 \quad 40 \quad 2$

HOTE THAT A SEMICOLON（＂；＂）IS USED TO
SEPARATE THE FORMULAS
NOTE TOO．THAT IN THE EXAMPLES，A SPACE IS FRINTED EEFORE AND AFTER EACH HUMBER．IF IT HAD BEEN A NEGATIVE HUMEER．THE LEADING SPACE WOULD EE A MINUS SIGN（＂－＂）．

LITERAL STRINGS MAY EE FRINTED BY ENCLOSING THEM IH SLASHES．TRY THIS：
？ $\operatorname{TH}$ THS IS A CASUAL LITERAL STRING／
CASUAL WILL TYPE：
THIS IS A CASUAL LITERAL STRING

A COMMA（＂，＂）IN A PRINT STATEMENT CAUSES A SINGLE EYTE TAB CHARACTER TO BE SENT（BII OCTAL）．A COMMA OR SEMICOLON ON THE END OF A STATEMENT WILL SUFFRESS THE CRLF AT THE END OF STATEMENT．SEE AFPENDIX G FOR MORE INFORMATION THE ASSIGNMENT STATEMENT

NOTE：THIS SECTION IS DIVIDED INTO TWO FARTS：THE MEANING OF CHARACTERS WHEN THEY AFPEAR OH THE LEFT OF AN ASSIGNMENT，AND THE MEANING ON THE RIGHT．THEY DON＊T hlwhys meat the same thing．

## LEFT SIDE

CHR．MEANING
THE NUMBER OF THE NEXT LINE TO BE EXECUTED．．$=350$ CAUSES CASUAL TO EXECUTE LINE 350 AND CONTINUE FROM THERE．． 0 CAUSES CASUAL TO EXECUTE THE LINE AFTER THE CURRENT LINE．$=-1$ CAUSES CASUAL TO STOP EXECUTIOH AND RETURN TO THE COMMAND MODE． CONDITIONAL ERANCHING IS DONE LIKE THIS：

## $=940 *(X<10)$

THE EXPRESSION OH THE RIGHT EVALUATES TO 940 IF THE COHDITION IS TRUE（X IS LESS THAN TEN）．IF IT IS FALSE（ $X$ IS GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO TEN），IT EvALUATES TO ZERO，AND THE NEXT LINE IS EXECUTED．

HAS THE SAME EFFECT AS＂．＂（PERIOD）．IN ADDITION， BEFORE COHTROL IS TRANSFERRED，THE HUMBER OF THE LINE FOLLÖBIHG THE CURRENT LINE IS SAVED BY CASUAL．THE MOST RECENTLY SAVED VALUE IS RECALLED WHEN＂\＄＂ IS FOUHD ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF AN ASSIGHMENT． THIS IS USED TO BRANCH TO SUBROUTINES
THIS CODE：
40 $\mathrm{K}=5: 2 \mathrm{X} ; \mathrm{s}=100$
50 ？：？ $\mathrm{X}+2$ ；：$\ddagger=100$
60 ？PLUS TWO．
$79 .=-1$
1 100 ？IS YOUR NUMBER／；
115 ＝
WILL FRINT：

If Line 40, 8 is assigned the value 5 , then
THE Value of $X$ IS PRINTED. " $\$=100$ " CAUSES CASUAL TO THE VALUE OF CRANCH TO LINE 1 QQ AND SAVE THE NEKT LINE NUIBER TO BE EXECUTEJ (50). WHEN THE SUBROUTINE IS FINISHED, IT RETURNS BY ". $=\$$ ". IN THIS CASE "§" HAS A VALUE OF 50 SO LINE 50 IS EXECUTED. HERE, AHOTHER Value is frinted, amd " $\$=100$ " CaUSES CASUAL TO Save the number of the next line (f0). This time WHEN LINE 110 IS EXECUTED, "\$" WILL EE EQUAL to 70 and casual will continue execution at Line 70. NOTE THAT a ROUTINE CALLED IN THIS MANNER aLWAYS RETURNS to the Line following the Line containing THE CALL TO IT.
THE CALL TO IT. SETS THE MEMORY ADDRESS WHERE "PEEKING" AND "POKIN
IS TO EE DONE. THE ADDRESS WILL REMAIN SET UNTIL ANOTHER "!" IS FOUND ON THE LEFT SIDE OF AN ASSIGNMENT STATEMENT. WHEN LOADED. CASUAL SETS "!=0", THEREFORE YOU MUST SET THIS ADDRESS before foking, or you may poke casual to death. SEE "\&" AND "!" EELOW.
\& Is used to store the value on the right of THE ASSIGNMENT STATEMENT IN THE LAST MEMORY ADDRESS GIVEN WITH "!". THE VALUE WILL BE TRUNCATED TO 8 GIVEN WITH "!". THE VALUE WILL BE TRUNCATED SOMETIMES CALLED "POKING".

Is USED TO SET THE BASE ADDRESS FOR THE SINGLE BYTE ARRAY. THE BASE ADDRESS WILL BE SET TO THE value on the right of the assignment statement. no value should be assigned which is less than the number typed in resfonse to "mem siz?"
performs the same function as ",", exceft that IT SETS THE DOUBLE-EYTE ARRAY BASE ADDRESS.

* DEFINES THE USER-DEFINAELE FUNCTION. IT IS EXECUTABLE, THEREFORE, MORE THAN ONE FUNCTION CAN BE USED
In THE SAME FROGRAM, BUT NOT AT THE SAME TIME. THE VALUE ON THE RIGHT BECOMES THE NEW USER-DEFINABLE FUnction. at the time it is iefinen. It is evaluated.
* SEnds the value on the right side of the assignment statement to the outfut fort given by the last STATEMENT TO THE OUTFUT FORT GIVE
"@=" ASSIGHMENT. SEE "@" BELOU.
e sets a new outfut port number. the value on the RIGHT IS SAVED FOR USE WITH " +0 AND "\&"
a - $z$ SETS the variable a thru $z$ to the value on the RIGHT SIDE OF the assignment statement. the old variable value is lost.
[ [X] SETS the X'th element of the single-byte array to the value on the right of the assighment statement.
" $[\mathrm{X}]$ SETS the $X$ 'th element of the nouble-byte arRay to the value on the right of the assignment statement. the right side

MEANING

HOLDS THE YALUE OF THE LINE CURRENTLY BEING EXECUTED. IF IT AFPEARS IN LINE 13G, IT HAS THE VALUE 130. IF IT APFEARS IN A DIRECT STATEMENT. Value 136. IF IT AF
IT HAS THE VALUE -1.
? CAUSES FROGRAM EXECUTION TO STOF FOR USER INPUT A QUESTION MARK AND SFACE ARE FRINTED ON THE TERMINAL AS A PROMPT. THE USER INPUTS A LIHE WITH A SINGLE EXFRESSION ON IT. THE VALUE OF THIS EXPRESSION IS GIVEN TO THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ASSIGNMENT. " $X=?$ ? CAUSES CASUAL TO STOF AND ACCEPT INFUT, WHICH IS THEN ASSIGNED TO THE VARIABLE $X$. DO NOT TYFE A QUESTION MARK IN RESPONSE TARIAELE $X$. DO NOT TYFE A QUESTION MARK IN RESFON TO THE INFUT FROMPT!! IF THE USER TYFES A RE
INETEAD OF AN EXFRESSION, CASUAL RETURNS TO COMMAND LEVEL.

* SEE DISCUSSION FOR LEFT SIdE.
$\because \quad$ REMAINDER AFTER LAST DIVISION. IF 2QAE $\therefore$ THE LAST DIVISION FERFORMED, \% WOULD BE EQUAL TO

PEEK FUNCTION. TAKES ON THE GALUE OF THE CONTENTS OF THE MEMORY LOCATION ADDRESSED BY THE LAST ASSIGNMENT TO "!". SEE "!" FOR LEFT SIDE. RETURHS A VALUE (0) T0 255.
\& INP FUNCTION. TAKES ON THE VALUE OF THE DATA AT THE IHPUT PORT WHOSE HUMEER WAS LAST SET WITH "@=". SEE "@" FOR LEFT SIDE. RETURHS A YALUE O TO 255.
'[x] RETURNS THE VALUE OF THE X'TH ELEMENT OF THE SINGLE E'TE ARRAY' X MA'Y EE AH EXPRESSION. THE ERACKETS ARE OFTIONAL IF AHD OHLY IF THE' ARE HOT NEEDED TO SEFGRATE THE SUESCRIFT FROM THE REST OF THE

EXPRESSION. BRACKETS ARE MANDATORY ON THE LEFT SIDE.
"[X] SAME AS '[X] EXCEFT THIS IS THE DOUBLE BYTE ARRAY.

* TAKES ON THE VALUE OF THE LAST EXPRESSION EVGLUATED. THIS INCLUDES EXPRESSIONS IN SUBSCRIPTS AND IN PARENTHESIS. $(2+3) *$ IS EQUAL TO 25.
( THE USER FUNCTION. TAKES ON THE VALUE PASSED TO IT BY THE MACHINE-LANGUAGE SUBROUTINE IN DE REGISTER. INITIALLY, IT IS SET UP TO RETURN THE NUMERIC vaLUE OF THE CHARACTER FOLLOWING THE "@". SEE APPENDIX F.
, SINGLE CHARACTER INPUT FROM THE KEYBOARD. EXECUTION WILL STOP UNTIL A CHARACTER IS INPUT. NO PROMPT IS PRINTED. RETURNS A VALUE D TO 127. PARITY MASKED.
a $-z$ TAKES ON THE VALUE OF THE VARIABLE A THRU $z$.
0 - 9 DIGITS OF NUMBERS INTERPRETED TO BE DECIMAL.
EXPRESSIONS

EXPRESSIONS ARE MATHEMATICAL FORMUALS WHICH EYALUATE TO 15-BIT SIGNED INTEGERS. THEY ARE USUALY FOUND ON THE
RIGHT SIDE OF AN ASSIGHMENT STATEMENT, AND SEVERAL OTHER RIGHT SIDE OF AN ASSIGNMENT STATEMENT, AND SEVERAL
PLACES. EXPRESSIONS CONSIST OF OFERANDS WHICH GET OFERATED UPON, AND OF OPERATORS WHICH SPECIFY THE OFERATION TO BE DONE. ALL THE LEGAL OPERANDS HAVE JUST BEEN GIVEN IN THE SECTION COVERING THE RIGHT SIDE OF AH ASSIGHMENT STATEMENT.

EXPRESSIONS ARE EVALUATED USING THE STANDARD MATHEMATICAL HIERARCHY. THE ORDER OF EYALUATION MAY BE ALTERED BY USING FARENTHESIS. THIS IS A LISTING OF LEGAL OPERATORS AND THE HIERARCHY:


THE FOUR RELATIONAL OFERATORS EVALUATE TO EITHER A ONE (1) IF THE CONDITION IS TRUE, OR A ZERO (B) IF THE CONDITION IS FALSE. NOTE: "\#" IS NOT EQUAL TO.

THE "*" AND " $/ n$ OPERATORS EVLUATE TO THE PRODUCT AND QUOTIENT OF THEIR OFERANDS RESPECTIVLY.

THE " + " AND "-" OPERATORS EYALUATE TO THE SUM AND IIFFERENCE OF THEIR OFERGNDS RESPECTIVLY.

THE " + " AND "-" OPERATORS ARE ALSO USED TO INDICATE UNARY FLUS AND MINUS RESPECTIVLY. THE FUNCTION IS DETERMINED BY CONTEXT.

WHEN EXFRESSIONS APPEAR IN PRINT STATEMENTS, CARE MUST EE TAKEN TO ENSURE THE MEANING OF THE ")" AND "/" OFERATORS ARE NOT MISINTERPRETED. BOTH OF THESE CHARACTERS DO A DOUBLE DUTY AND ARE EAISLY MISUNDERSTOOD BY CASUAL. FOR INSTANCE, "? A MILES PER GALLON/" WILL PRODUCE ALL SORTS OF GARBAGE BECAUSE THE SLASH ( $/$ ) IS TAKEN TO MEAN DIVISION AND NOT THE START OF A LITERAL STRING LIKE THE USER WANTED. HERE IS THE FIX: "? A;MILES FER GALLON/" HERE IT IS CLEAR THAT THE VALUE OF A IS TO BE PRINTED, FOLLOWED EY A LITERAL STRING.

ARRAY REFEREHCES ARE NOT LEGAL ELEMENTS OF AN EXPRESSIOH WHICH IS ITSELF THE SUBSCRIPT OF AH ARRAY.

APPENDIX A
LOADING PROCEDURE
THE PURPOSE OF A BOOTSTRAF LOADER IS TO READ A LARGER EINARY LOADER INTO MEMORY WHICH IN TURN LOADS CASUAL. THE BOOTSTRAF FROGRAM MAY
BE LQADED FROM THE FRONT FANEL SWITCHES OR BY USING THE SYSTEM MONITOR ROM. IT IS 21 BYTES LONG AND GOES IN VERY QUICKLY. THE BOOTSTRAP LOADER IS SO NAMED BECAUSE IT IS FREQUENTLY USED TO BRING THE SYSTEM UF AFTER A FOWER-OFF COHDITION. THUS, IT IS PULLING THE UF AFTER A FOWER-OFF CONDIT
SYSTEM UP BY ITS BOOTSTRAF.

THE EOOTSTRAF PRESENTED HERE IS IN A NO-CHECKSUM FORMAT, BUT IT DOES ALLOW LEADER. IT SHOULD WORK EQUALLY WELL FOR FAFER TAFE OR CASETTE INFUT. THIS EOOTSTRAP WILL LOAD A BINARY LOADER AND THEN TRANSFER CONTROL TO THE EINAR'Y LOADER AUTOMATICALLY. THE EINARY LOADER LOADS A CHECKSUMMED-FORMAT TAFE AND ALSO TRANSFERS AUTOMATICALLY WHEN DONE LOADING. THERE ARE TWO POSSIBLE ERRORS WITH THE EINARY LOADER: CHECKSUM ERROR AND MEMORY ERROR. THE FIRST OCCURS WHEN THE CHECKSUM READ FROM EECAUSE A B'YTE WAS READ FROM TAFE INCORRECTLY. EECAUSE A BYTE WAS READ FROM TAFE INCORRECTLY. A MEMORY ERROR OCCURS WHEN DATA READ FROM TAPE IS LOADED IHTO MEMORY AND CAN'T BE READ BACK. THIS CAN EE CAUSED EY BAD MEMORY, PROTECTED MEMORY OR NON-EXISTENT MEMORY. WHEN EITHER ERROR OCCURS, THE LOADER STOFS READING TAPE AND ENTERS AN INFINITE LOOF. AN ASCII CHARACTER IS FUT OUT ON PORTS 1, 10, 21, AND 23 (OCTAL): AH "M" FOR MEMORY ERROR, A "C" FOR CHECKSUM ERROR. THIS CHARACTER IS ALSO STORED IN THE HIGHEST LOCATION OF THE FAGE WHERE THE BINARY LUADER RESIDES ( 007 377). AFTER A MEMORY ERROR, THE HL REGISTER WILL CONTAIN THE ADDRESS OF THE EAD MEMORY LOCATION.

TO READ IN A TAFE:


NDTE: THE BINARY LOADER POKES ITSELF TO USE THE SAME DEVICE AS THE BOOTSTRAP: THEREFORE, YOU MUST USE A BOOTSTRAF OF THIS FORM, OR REWRITE THE BINARY LOADER.

TO MAKE YOUR OWN BOOTSTRAF: FUT YOUR STATUS PORT HUMEEF INTO LOC. G67. FUT A MASK WHICH WILL LEAVE THE READER READY EIT INTG LOR. EI1. IF READY IS ACTIVE HI: FUT 310 INTO LDC. 日12. IF READY IS ACTIVE LO: FUT 300 INTO LOC. 612. FUT THE INFIIT DATA FORT NUMBER INTO LOC. B14. LEAVE ALL OTHER LOCATIGHS THE SAME AS LOADER A.

AFFENDIK E
INITIALIZATION IIALOGUE
AFTER CASUAL HAS EEEN LOAIED 〔PER INSTRUCTIONS IN AFPENDIX A) AND ANY I O PATCHES HAVE BEEN MADE, IT WILL ASK,

## MEN SIZ?

IF YOU TYFE A CARRIAGE RETURN, CASUAL WILL USE ALL THE COHTIGUNUS MEMORY UFWARIS FROM ZERO THAT IT CAH FIND. CASUAL WILL STOF SEARCHING WHEN IT FINDS ONE EYTE OF ROM OR NDH-EXISTENT MEMORY' I.E. MEMOE'Y UHICH WILL NOT ACCEFT AND SUCCESSFILLY READ BACK A TEST BYTE. THIS IS A HOH-DESTRUCTIVE TEST SO I O FATCHES AHI SUCH WON'T BE IESTROYEI.

IF YOU WISH TO ALLOCATE OHL'Y FART OF YOUR COMPUTER'S MEMDR'Y TU CASUAL, TYFE THE DEEIMAL ADDRESS OF THE FIRST EYTE WHICH CHSUAL IS HOT TO USE. THIS MIGHT BE DOHE. FOR EKAMFLE, IF YOU UERE USING FART OF MEMOR'Y FOR MACHINE

ANGUAGE SURROUTINES OR TO SET ASIDE MEMORY FOR CASUAL ARRAY STORAGE.

THERE ARE 4096 BYTES IN A $4 K$ SYSTEM, 8192 IN AN $8 K$ SYSTEM, 2048 IN A 2K SYSTEM.

THE ADDRESS GIVEN IN RESPONSE TO "MEM SIZ?" MUST BE RAM, OR ELSE CASUAL WILL REPEAT THE QUESTION. THERE IS ALSO A CERTAIN MINIMUM AMOUNT OF MEMORY CASUAL MUST HAVE TO OPERATE. IF THE RESPONSE IS LESS THAN THIS MINIMUM, CASUAL WILL REFEAT THE MEMORY SIZE QUESTION. IN VERSION. 16 , THIS MINIMUM IS ABOUT 1700.

CASUAL WILL NOW ENTER A DIALOG WHICH ALLOWS YOU TO DELETE SOME COMMANDS AND FEATURES. IF FEATURES ARE DELETED, THIS WILL LEAVE MORE FOR YOUR FROGRAM. HOWEVER, ATTEMPTING TO ACCES THESE FEATURES WILL GIVE GH ERROR, USUALLY THE SYNTAX ERROR. THE ONLY TO RESTORE A FEATURE WHICH HAS BEEN DELETED IS TO RELOAD CASUAL

THIS IS THE DIALOG WHICH WILL OCCUR:

WANT SAVE/TAPE?

WANT STR I/O?

WANT ARRAYS?

ANSWER "Y" TO RETAIN SAVE AND TAPE COMMANDS. IF YOU ANSWER "N", ASKS NEXT QUESTION.

ANSWER "Y" TO RETAIN STRING INPUT AND OUTPUT. IF YOU ANSWER "N", ASKS NEXT QUESTION.

ANSWER "Y" TO RETAIN SINGLE AND DOUBLE BYTE ARRAYS. IF YOU ANSWER "N", BOTH ARRAYS ARE DELETED

ONCE THIS DIALOGUE IS COMFLETE, CASUAL TYPES OUT:

| KXXXX EYTES FREE | XXXXX IS THE NUMBER OF BYTES |
| :--- | :--- |
| CASUAL V. YY | AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM |
|  | STORAGE AND STACK SPACE. |
|  | $Y Y$ IS THE CURRENT VERSION |

YY IS THE CURRENT VERSION NUMBER.

DELETING SAVE AND TAPE COMMANDS WILL FREE UP AN ADDITIONAL 106 BYTES, STRING I/O ANOTHER 34, AND ADDITIONAL 106 BYTES, STRING I/O ANOTHER
DELETEING ARRAYS GIVES ANOTHER 62 BYTES.

APPENDIX C
ERROR MESSAGES
WHEN AN ERROR OCCURS, CASUAL RETURNS TO COMMAND LEVEL
AND TYPES THE FROMPT FERIOD ".". VARIABLE VALUES AND
THE CASUAL FROGRAM REMAIN INTACT. AFTER THE ERROR HAS BEEN CORRECTED, EXECUTION MAY BE COHTINUED WITH NO LOSS OF CONTEXT.

WHEN AN ERROR OCCURS IN A DIRECT STATEMENT, NO LINE HUMEER IS PRINTED.

FORMAT OF ERROR MESSAGES:
DIRECT STATEMENT
INDIRECT STATEMENT
ERROR XXX LL?LL
ERROR XXX IN YYYYY LL?LL
IN BOTH CASES, "XXX" IS THE ERROR NUMBER. "LL?LL" IS THE STATEMENT IN WHICH THE ERROR OCCURRED. A QUESTION THE STATEMENT IN WHICH THE ERROR OCCURRED. A QUESTION
MARK IS INSERTED AT THE FOINT OF THE ERROR SOMETIMES. THE MARK IS INSERTED AT THE FOINT OF THE ERROR SOMETIMES. TH
"YY'Y'Y" WILL BE THE LINE NUMEER WHERE THE ERROR OCCURRED FOR THE INDIRECT STATEMENT.
THE FOLLOWING ARE THE KNOUN ERROR NUMBERS AND THEIR
MEANINGS:
96 SYNTAX ERROR. MISSING FARENTHESIS, ILLEGAL CHARACTER IN A STATEMENT, OR UNRECOGNIZABLE STATEMENT TYFE.

231 ILLEGAL CHARACTER TERMINATING A STATEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE: $x=3$ ) GIVES ERROR 291.
34E MISSING CLOSING SLASH IN A LITERAL STRING.
410 UNDEFINED STATEMENT. AN ATTEMFT WAS MADE TO ERANCH TO A LINE NUMEER WHICH DOES NOT EXIST. THIS ERROR MAY OCCUR IN THE RUN XXXXX COMMAND, WHERE KXXXX DOES NOT EXIST.

516 OUT OF MEMORY. PROGRAM TOO LARGE OR TOO COMPLICATED AN EXPRESSION OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH. SEE AFPENDIX D.

751 DIYISION BY ZERO.
BQ1 MISSING EXFRESSION. A STATEMENT TERMINATOR WAS FOUND WHERE AN EXPRESSION WAS EXFECTED.

AFFENDIX D
SFACE HINTS
IN ORDER TO MAKE YOUR FROGRAM SMALL AND SAVE SFACE,
THE FOLLOWING Hints MAY be helfful.

USE MULTIPLE STATEMENTS PER LINE．THERE IS AMONT OF OVERHEAD（3 BYTES）ASSOCIATED WITH THE LINE JN THE CASUAL PROGRAM．TWO OF THE BYTES CONTAIN HOW MANY NUMBER IN BINARY．THIS MEANS THAT NO MATTER IN YOU LINE NUMBER，IT TAKES THE SIBLE ON A LINE WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF BYTES USED BY SIBLE ON A LI
YOUR FROGRAM．

PROGRAM．2）SFACES ARETE ALL UNNECESSARY SPACES FROM YOUR STATEMENT FOR CES ARE ALLOWED ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF A CASUAL ALL SFACES BETWEEN THE LINE NUMBER AND THE FIRST NON－BLANK CHARACTER ARE IGNORED．

3）DELETE ALL REMARKS FROM THE PROGRAM．
4）USE VARIABLES INSTEAD OF CONSTANTS．
5）THE LAST STATEMENT OF A PROGRAM NEED NOT BE AN END STATEMENT．CASUAL WILL RETURN TO COMMAND MODE AUTOMATICALLY IF IT RUNS OUT OF FROGRAM TO EXECUTE．

6）USE SUBROUTINES TO EXECUTE SECTIONS OF CODE UHICH APPEAR IN A PROGRAM MORE THAN ONCE．

7）USE RELATIONAL OPERATORS INSETAD OF GOTOS． FOR INSTANCE：IF YOU WANT $X=10$ IF $Y=10$ ，AND $X=0$ IF $Y \geqslant 10: D O$ IT LIKE THIS：$X=Y \# 10$ ．

8）USE THE $" \leftarrow "$ OPERATOR INSTEAD OF
REPEATING AN EXPRESSION．

## STORAGE ALLOCATION INFORMATION

THE USER－DEFINED FUNCTION USES NO MEMORY
TO STORE THE DEFINITION．
WHILE A PROGRAM IS BEING EXECUTED，SPACE IS ALLOCATED ON THE STACK．EACH LEVEL OF FARENTHESIS ENCOUHTERED IN AN EXZRESSION TAKES 8 BYTES OF STACK SPACE．

APPENDIX E
BASIC TO CASUAL STATEMENT CROSS REFERENCE

| BASIC | CASUAL |
| :---: | :---: |
| RUN | R |
| LIST | L |
| NEW | N |
| 350 DEF FNA $(X)=X * X+Y * Y$ | $350 \uparrow=X * 欠+Y * Y$ |
| 999 END． | 999．$=-1$ |
| 50 GOTO 100 | $50 .=100$ |
| 10 GOSUB 910 | $10 \%=910$ |
| 16 IF $X+10>Y / 2$ THEN 214 | 16．$=214 *(X+10\rangle Y / 2)$ |
| 20 IF $X>3$ AND $X<10$ THEN 250 | 20．$=250 *$（ $X>3$ ）＊$(X<10)$ |
| 140 INPUT $X$ | $140 \mathrm{X}=$ ？ |
| 145 INPUT $Y, Z, A$ | $145 \quad Y=$ ？：$Z=$ ？：$A=$ ？ |
| 147 LET $A=B=0$ | $147 \mathrm{~A}=0$ ： $\mathrm{B}=0$ |
| 107 LET W $=(2+3) * 4$ | $107 \mathrm{~W}=(2+3) * 4$ |
| 100 ON I GOTO 10，20，30，40 | $100 .=I * 10 *\langle I\rangle 0\rangle *\langle I<5)$ |
| 105 DN SGN（ $X$ ）+2 GOTO 40，50，60 | 105．$=50+10 *((x>0)-(x<0))$ |
| $110 \mathrm{ON} \mathrm{I} \mathrm{GOSUB} \mathrm{50,60}$ |  |
| 355 OUT I，J | 355 al $: \leftarrow=$ J |
| 357 POKE［，J | 357 ！＝1：\＆$=\mathrm{J}$ |
| 360 PRINT $X, Y ; Z$ | 360 ？ $3, Y ; Z$ |
| 370 PRINT | 370 ？ |
| 380 PRINT $\mathrm{X}, \mathrm{Y}$ ； | 360 ？ $3, Y$ ； |
| 390 PRINT＂I THINK IT＇S＂； | 330 ？／I THINK IT＇S／； |
| 400 PRINT A，B， | 400 ？ $4, B$ ， |
| 410 PRINT CHR\＄（Z－INT（Z／64）＊64）； | 410 ？ 4 マーマ／64＊64 |
| 500 REM SMALL IS GREAT ！！ | $500 .=510$ SMALL IS GREAT ！！ |
| 50 RETURN | $50 .=$ 今 |
| 9000 STOP | $9000 .=-1$ |
| APPENDIX F |  |
| BASIC TO CASUAL FUNCTION | CROSS REFERENCE |

THE FOLLOWING TABLE CAN BE USED TO MAKE CASUAL＇S
USER－DEFINABLE FUNCTION EQUIVALENT TO THE CORRESPONDING INTRINSIC FUNCTION OF BASIC．

| BASIC |
| :--- |
| ABS $(x)$ |
| SGN $(x)$ |
| USR $(x)$ |
| PEEK $(x)$ |
| INP $(x)$ |
| MOD $(x)$ |
| MAX $(x, y)$ |
| MIN $(x, y)$ |

CASUAL
$\uparrow=x *(\langle x\rangle \theta-(x<\theta))$
$\uparrow=(X\rangle \theta)-(X<\theta)$
$\uparrow=$＠

$!=久: \uparrow=1$
$e=久: \uparrow=\&$
＠＝$=$ ：$\uparrow=\&$
$\uparrow=K / Y * Q+\%$
$\uparrow=(K\rangle Y) * K+(X-1\langle Y) * Y$
$\uparrow=(X\rangle Y) * K+(X-1\langle Y) * Y$
$\uparrow=(X<Y) * K+(Y-1\langle X) * Y$

OTHER USEFUL FUNCTIONS

OCTAL TO DECIMAL：THIS FUNCTION ACCEPTS A THREE
DIGIT OCTAL NUMBER IN DECIMAL PRINT FORMAT IN THE VARIABLE $C$.
$10 \uparrow=C / 100 * 64+(C-C / 100 * 100) / 10 * 8+C-C / 10 * 10$ $20 \mathrm{C}=377$ ：？$\uparrow$ PRINTS 255

DECIMAL TO OCTAL，THIS FUNCTION ACCEPTS A DECIMAL NUMBER （Q－255）IN THE VARIABLE D，AND RETURNS AN OCTAL REFRES－ ENTATION OF IT AS A DECIMAL NUMBER O－377．
$30 \uparrow=\mathrm{D} / 64 * 100+(\mathrm{D}-\mathrm{D} / 64 * 64) / 8 * 10+\mathrm{D}-\mathrm{D} / 8 * 8$
$40 \mathrm{D}=255:$ ？$\uparrow$ GIVES 377
APPENDIX G
CASUAL／MACHINE LANGUAGE INTERFACE
CASUAL HAS THE ABILIT＇Y TO LINK TO MACHINE－LANGUAGE SUBROUTINES，AND RECEIVE DATA FROM THEM．FIRST，YOU MUST SET ASIDE ENOUGH MEMORY TO HOLD THE MACHINE－LANGUAGE ROUTIHE WHEN CASUAL ASKS＂MEM SIZ？＂，DON＇T TYPE A RETURH，BECAUSE CASUAL WOULD USE ALL THE MEMORY IT COULD FIND，AND NONE WILL BE LEFT FOR YOUR MACHINE－LANGUGGE ROUTINE．

YOU SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO USE ANY MEMORY BETWEEN LOCATION ZERO AND THE LAST ADDRESS ALLOCATED FOR CASUAL，AS IT IS CONSTANTLY BEING MODIFIED EY CASUAL

SINCE CASUAL MUST USE CONTIGUOUS BLOCKS OF MEMORY STARTING AT ZERO，IT IS EEST TO RESERVE HIGH LOCATIONS IH MEMORY FOR YOUR SUBROUTINES．

FOR EXAMPLE，IF YOU HAVE A $3 K$ SYSTEM，THERE ARE 3072 EYTES IN YOUR MACHINE（1024＊3）．THE＇Y ARE NUMEERED 0 － 3071 ．IF YOU WANTED TO USE A 50 EYTE SURROUTINE， YOU WOULD TYPE 3022 IN RESPONSE TO＂MEM SIZ？＂THIS JILL ALLOCATE LOCATIONS 0－ 3021 FOR CASUAL，AND 3022 － 3071 FOR YOUR SUBROUTINE．

THE STARTING ADDRESS OF YOUR ROUTINE MUST BE STDRED IN A LOCATION KNOWN AS＂USRL＂．THE ADDRESS OF USRL IS FOUND GT ADDRESS 000003 ，SPLIT DCTAL．

WHEN LOADED，USRL CONTAINS THE ADDRESS OF A ROUTINE TO RETURN THE NUMERIC VALUE OF THE ASCII CHARACTER FOLLOWING THE＂e＂．USRL
CONTAINS THE TWO BYTE AESDLUTE ADDRESS CASUAL CALLS WHEN IT ENCOUNTERS AN AT SIGN（＂＠＂）IN AN EXPRESSION．

WHEN YOUR ROUTINE IS CALLED，THE STACK POINTER IS SET UF AND YOU ARE ALLOWED TO USE UP TO 11 LEVELS DF STACK SFACE （22 B＇YTES）．TO USE MORE，YOU＇LL HAVE TO SAVE CASUAL＇S STACK POINTER AND SET YOUR OWN．YOU MA＇Y USE ALL OF THE LFU REGISTERS EXCEPT HL．HL CONTAINS THE AIDRESS OF THE CHARACTER REGISTERS EXCEPT HL．
FOLLOWING THE＂®＂．
FOLLOWING THE＂＠＂．
THE RESULT OF THE © FUNCTION IS PASSED EACK TO
CASUAL IN THE DE REGISTER AS A 15 EIT SIGHED NUMEER．THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BITS ARE IN THE D REGISTER．

YOU MAY RECIEVE ARGUMENTS FASSED TO YOUR
ROUTINE B＇Y CALLING A ROUTINE CALLED SUES．THE ADDRESS OF THIS ROUTINE IS HELD IN LOCATIONS 5 AND $E$ ．THE ARGUMENT SHOULD EE ENCLOSED IN ERACKETS（＂［＂AND＂］＂）．

THE USERS ROUTINE MAY ENABLE INTERRUPTS，AS LDNG AS THE USER USES ONLY RST 7 INTERRUPTS．INTERRUFTING TD OTHER LOCATIONS WILL CAUSE TROUBLE．THREE EYTES HAVE EEEN LEFT LOCATIONS WILL CAUSE TROUBLE．THREE EYTES HAVE BEEN LEFT
AT LODATION 56 DECIMAL， 70 DCTAL， 38 HEX．THESE LOCATIONS AT LOEATION 56 DECIMAL， 70 OCTAL， 36 HEX．THESE LOCATIONS
ARE LEFT SO THE USER CAN INSERT A JUMF TO AN IHTERRUFT SERVICE ARE LEFT
RDUTINE．

CARE MUST EE TAKEN IN INTERRUFT SERVICE FOUTINES TO SAVE ALL DF THE CFU＇S REGISTERS．

DOH＇T FORGET TO ENABLE INTERRUPTS BEFORE RETURNING，
OR YOUR MACHINE WILL NEVER SEE ANDTHER INTERFUPT，
SUPFOSE YOU HAVE A $2 K$ COMFUTER，AHD NEED A ROUTINE
TO READ THE NUMBER ON THE FROHT PANEL SWITCHES．
HOTE：THIS FUNCTION CAN BE DDNE IIRECTL＇Y IN CASUAL
YOU HAVE 2048 BYTES OF MEMORY MIHUS 6 EYTES FOR THE
ROUTINE LEAVES 2042 FOR CASUAL．THIS IS THE NUMEER
YOU WOULD TYPE IN RESPONSE TO＂MEMORY SIZE？＂．LOAD THIS INTO MEMORY：

| LOC． | DATA | OPCODE |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 007 | 372 | 333 | IN |
| 007 | 373 | 377 |  |
| 007 | 374 | 137 | MOV |
| 007 | 375 | 026 | MVI |
| 007 | 376 | 000 |  |
| 007 | 377 | 311 | RET |

00737511 RET
AFPENDIK H
ASCII CHARACTER CODES（DECIMAL）

| \＃ | CHR． | \＃ | CHR． | \＃ | CHR． | \＃ | CHR． |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 32 | （SFACE） | 33 | ！ | 34 | ＂ | 35 | \＃ |
| 36 | \＄ | 37 | \％ | 38 | \＆ | 39 | ， |
| 40 | （ | 41 | ） | 42 | ＊ | 43 | ＋ |
| 44 | ， | 45 | － | 46 |  | 47 | ＇ |
| 48 | 0 | 49 | 1 | 50 | 2 | 51 | 3 |
| 52 | 4 | 53 | 5 | 54 | 6 | 55 | 7 |
| 55 | 8 | 57 | 9 | 56 | ： | 59 | ； |
| $6 \square$ | $<$ | $\epsilon 1$ | $=$ | $\epsilon 2$ | ＞ | 63 | ？ |
| 64 | ［ | 65 | A | 66 | E | $\epsilon 7$ | c |
| 68 | D | 69 | E | 70 | F | 71 | $\square$ |
| 72 | H | 73 | I | 74 | $J$ | 75 | $k$ |
| 75 | L | 77 | 1 | 78 | N | 79 | 0 |
| 80 | F | 81 | 0 | 82 | F | 83 | 5 |
| 84 | T | 85 | $\cup$ | 86 | $V$ | 87 | W |
| 88 | $x$ | 89 | $Y$ | 90 | $z$ | 91 | ［ |
| 92 | $\checkmark$ | 93 | J | 94 | ＋ | 95 | $\leftarrow$ |

NOTE：SOME TERMINALS FRINT CODE 95 AS A BACK ARROW，AND SOME FRINT AN UNDERLINE．

```
LINE FEED = 1G
TAB = 11
CARRIAGE RETURH = 13 BELL = %
```

    THESE CODES ARE USED WITH THE ">" FLHCTIOH OF THE "?
    STATEMENT. " $>$ " FOLLOUEI BY AH ESPRESSION RETURHS A ONE
EHARARTER STRING WHICH COHTAINS THE ASCII EQUIVALENT
OF THE EXPRESEIDN
AFFENIIK $Z$
THAHKS TO:
THE FOLLOWING FEOFLE FOR DEBUGGING EARLY YERSIONS:
BILL SAIHION, AL EAKER, MR. ZIEGLER, AHD SEVERAL OTHER
CACHE MEMEERS
THE FOLLUSING FEOFLE FDR FROOFREAIING:
EILL FRECHT, MARK DAYISON AND M'Y FAMILY
GARRY SHANNON FOR PROPOSING THE SYNTAX.
E'TTE MAGAZINE FOR THE DECIMAL FRINT ROUTINE
LDU VAN EFREN OF THE CHICAGO COMPUTER STORE FOR THE USE OF
HIS ERUIPMEHT

```
PROGRAM NAME: CASUAL PATCH SHEET
```

An optional patch to replace the RUN command with a CLEAR command. This command allows the user to allocate more or less memory for CASUAL after initialization. The argument is an expression which is the first location that CASUAL is not to use. This location must be RAM, and must be $>=1703_{10}$. Returns to command mode when done. To run programs, you'll have to type . $=\langle$ EXPR $\rangle$, where $<E X P R\rangle$ is the first line number to be executed.

| LOCATION |  | DATA |  | OPCODE |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| HI | LOW | OLD | NEW | OLD | NEW |
| 004 | 037 | 317 | 317 | TST''R | TST" ${ }^{\text {C }}$ |
| 004 | 040 | 122 | 103 |  |  |
| 004 | 041 | 173 | 173 | IFNOT | IFNOT |
| 004 | 042 | 005 | 005 | OS? | OS? |
| 004 | 043 | 312 | 337 |  |  |
| 004 | 044 | 024 | 353 | JTZ | EXPR |
| 004 | 045 | 004 | 042 | RSSP | DE $<>$ HL |
| 004 | 046 | 337 | 377 |  | STHL |
| 004 | 047 | 303 | 004 | EXPR | STRS |
| 004 | 050 | 207 | 307 | JMP |  |
|  |  |  |  | GOTA |  |

## RAW ROCKWELL RUMORS <br> REVEÁL ZILOG COMPETITOR 9/21/76

Rockwell International had been considered by Zilog as a potential second source for the Z80 parts. Since Rockwell was not chosen, they went ahead with the development of their own Z80-type CPU chip (R80). It will be ready sometime in 1977.

The words is that the chip will be pin compatible and software compatible. The device is mask microprogrammable, similar to Western Digital's 16 -bit CPU chip set. Some of the instructions execute much faster than Zilog's Z80, e.g., block move Z80 in 21 cycles/byte, vs. R80 in 5 cycles/byte. Finally, there will be some instruction enhancements over the Z 80 which include a hardware multiply and divide.

## MOSTEK AND FAIRCHILD TO SECOND SOURCE EACH OTHER

Mostek is already the second source for Fairchild's F-8 microprocessor chips. Now, Fairchild will become the second source for Mostek's 4K-bit fast RAM, the 16-pin MK4027 that runs at less than 200 ns.

Dear Jim,
Oct. 16, 1976
I am still attempting to locate more information on a Chicago computer-fest.

Scott Meaden (a local CASUAL user) has just written a neat game in CASUAL. It's called "Zapp the Moonman". It runs with a VDM by "poking" the screen, a moving target (a moonman) moves back and forth across the top of the screen. You shoot lightning bolts at him from your gun at the bottom. I am now twisting his arm to finalize it and send you a copy.

Sincerely, Bob Van Valzah
(312) 852-0472

1140 Hickory Trl
(312) 971-2010 x231

## ZAPP THE MOON MAN

Dear Dr. Dobbs,
Oct. 21, 1976
I've been using a nifty little language called "CASUAL" on my IMSAI (which is only 4 K smart at the moment) with a VDM and came up with a program you might consider for publication. I call it "Zapp the Moon Man". It starts a moonman (VDM character 7) moving from left to right and then back again across the top of the screen. Your job is to try to zap him with a lightning bolt (VDM character 4) that moves from the bottom of the screen to the top. The bolts are fired by the sense switches on the front panel of my IMSAI. The program also keeps track of how many bolts you have left and how many moonmen you've zapped.

The start of the VDM screen must be set in line 3. My VDM is set up for CC(hex) 314(octal) which, in CASUAL decimal notation, is equal to -13312 . You can use CASUAL to help you figure out what number to set Z to. For example, if your screen starts on page 364 (octal), type in $? 256 *(3 * 64+6 * 8+4)$, hit return and CASUAL will print -3072 . This is Z for that system. Also, if you want to use a different trigger source (say, passing your hand over an OP-80 papertape reader) you'll have to change lines 11 and 110 for port numbers and Ready bit. But remember, once that bit is ready you'll have to give the data port an $\&$ to clear it.

The game is set up so when a bolt gets to the top of the screen it checks 2 places to see if it hit (line 210). To make him harder to hit, type in:

```
\(210 .=240 *((\mathrm{X}-2=\mathrm{P}) *(\mathrm{~B}=0))+((\mathrm{X}+2=\mathrm{P}) *(\mathrm{~B}=1)))\)
    Happy zapping!
Scott Meadow 116 Surrey Dr.
                                Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
```


## .L

$3 z=-13312$
4 ?) 12
5 ? HOU MANY BLLTS DO YDU WANT $: ~: S=?:=5 \diamond(S<1)$
$6 .=5 \diamond(S>99)$
$10 \quad \mathrm{~J}=\mathrm{Z}+754: \mathrm{L}=2+864: M=L: P=Z+32: N=Z-32: J=Z+722$
$112=255$
15 ? $>12 ;:!=2: 8=32: H=0: I=0:!=L+1 e 8: \&=160: L=L+128$


$40,[97]=76:-[98]=698,[99]=708,[100]=84: S=S+1: \$=400$
$50 \mathrm{~B}=0: X=Z: Y=Z+64$
$50 \mathrm{~B}=0.8=2$
100
$\$=3000$
$110:=100 *(0=2)$
$120 \$=400$
$130!=L+64: \&=328!=L: \&=48 L=L-64: \$=3000$
$150 .=130 \Leftrightarrow(L \div N)$
$200:=P: \%=32$
$210 .=240 \Leftrightarrow(\langle\langle\langle X-1=P)+(X-2=P)\rangle *(B=0\rangle)+(\langle(X+1=P)+(X+2=P)\rangle \otimes(B=1)\rangle)$
$220 .=5$ (Sく1)
$230 .=110$
$240 \mathrm{H}=\mathrm{H}+1: \mathrm{I}=\mathrm{H} / 10: \mathrm{I}=\mathrm{J}+1: 8=\%+48:!=\mathrm{J}: 8=\mathrm{I}+48: I=\mathrm{H}$

$244 x=2:!=x: \omega=0$
$245 \&=32: x=x+1:!=x: \omega=\omega+1: 0=2450(\omega * 50)$
$250=50$
$400 \mathrm{~S}=\mathrm{S}-1: \mathrm{L}=\mathrm{M}: \mathrm{V}=\mathrm{S} / 10: \mathrm{n}=\mathrm{U}+1: \%=\%+48: \mathrm{l}=\mathrm{U}: \varepsilon=\mathrm{V}+48: \mathrm{V}=\mathrm{S}: .=\mathrm{S}$
3000 . $=3900$ ( $B=1$ )

$3200 \quad X=X-1: B=1: 。=\$$

$4000 x=x+1: B=0:=\$$





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## A REPLY: STRUCTURED PROGRAMMING

Dear Sir,
Oct. 23, 1976
Several months ago, I wrote a letter to $D D J$, parts of which appeared in Vol. 1, No. 6, page 40. In Vol. 1, No. 9, page 37, Tim Bonham takes issue with several of the comments in my letter. I wish to have the opportunity to in turn take issue with several of Mr. Bonham's comments.

First, Mr. Bonham states that I seem to equate structured programming with lots of control structures. As a matter of fact, I don't make such as equation since I am aware that SP (structured programming) involves concepts other than control structures such as top down programming and so forth. However, SP in my mind does involve lots of control structures, and I will explain why later. For the purposes of this letter, I will assume that SP is concerned only with controlled structures.

Second, Mr. Bonham states that one of the important events in the history of structured programming was the publication of a proof that all programs could be written using only three control structures, namely, sequence, if-then-else, and loops. I assume that Mr. Bonham is referring to a proof which appeared in a paper written by Boehm and Jacopini [1]. Knuth [2] says the following about this result:

Recent interest in structured programming has caused many authors to cite Jacopini's result as a significant breakthrough and as a cornerstone of modern programming technique. Unfortunately, these authors are unaware of comments made by Cooper . . . and later by Bruno and Steiglitz . . . , namely, that from a practical standpoint the theorem is meaningless. Knuth goes on to show how Jacopini's result may be used to put any program into a virtually structureless form.

Third, Mr. Bonham states that one of the basics of SP is the use of only a very few control structures. If this is indeed the case, then we can do much better than SIL (sequencing, if-then-else, and looping), because, as Presser [3] has shown, if-then-else is superfluous. However, not even Presser advocates the complete elimination of if-then-else. Thus, I believe that it can be said that the minimum feasible set of control structures is not the same as the minimum practical set of control structures; although, there does seem to be a general consensus that a minimum practical set must include SIL. Where one draws the line beyond SIL seems to be strictly a case of chacun a son gout. Zahn [4] for example, seems to feel that even adding the FOR statement and recursive subprograms is not enough. Vaughan [5] argues for including both the labelled and indexed CASE statement. A casual examination of the literature will reveal various proposals for control structures to supplement SIL. In the absence of any precise generally accepted definition of SP, I am inclined to believe that a minimum practical set of control structures will include substantially more than SIL.

Fourth, Mr. Bonham states that I seem to consider PL/I to be a simple SP language, and that he does not consider PL/I to be an SP language. I do not wish to refute Mr. Bonham's claim that PL/I is not an SP language, since I am in sympathy with his view on this issue. However, there are any number of textbooks with titles like "Structured Programming in $\mathrm{PL} / \mathrm{l}^{\prime \prime}$ which suggests that $\mathrm{PL} / 1$ is being treated as an SP language whether in fact it is or not. This together with the fact that PL/l is a commonly used complex language is the reason why I cited it in my letter.

Yours,
Fred J. Dickey 3420 Granville Rd
Westerville OH 4308I
[1] Boehm, C. and Jacopini, G. "Flow-diagrams, Turing Machines, and Languages with only two formation rules," CACM, Vol. 9, No. 5, 1966, pp. 366-71.
[2] Knuth, D. "Structured Programming with GOTO Statements," Computing Surveys, Vol. 6, No. 4, 1974, pp. 261-301.
[3] Presser, L. "Structured Languages," Sigplan Notices, Vol. 10, No. 7, 1975, pp. 22-24.
[4] Zahn, C., Jr. "Structured Control in the Programming Languages," Sigplan Notices, Vol. 10, No. 7, 1975, pp. 13-15.
[5] Vaughan,W.C..M.. "Another Look at the CASE Statement," Sigplan Notices, Vol. 9, No. 11, 1974, pp. 32-36.

## COMPUTER-BASED INSTRUCTIONAL SYSTEMS MEETING

The 1977 Winter Meeting of the Association for the Development of Computer-Based Instructional Systems (ADCIS) will be held in Newark, DE, February 22-24, 1977. For further information, contact the conference host, Fred Hofstetter, Dept. of Music, Univ. of Delaware, Newark, DE 19711, (302) 738-2497.

## SOME SOFTWARE NEEDS \& HOW TO FILL 'EM

1) It seems to me that what the microcomputer market needs most right now are good software development tools. High priority includes:
a) a good monitor/operating system: one such as described in $D D J$ (April 1976) is on the right track. Sphere's new DOS also seems very promising. DOS not only allows user-cataloged 32-character file names, but also has a number of very useful monitor requests built in, which take care of all the I/O interfaces for the user.
b) a macro-assembler that can run resident on a microsystem. The need for this should be self-explanatory.
c) a simple procedure-oriented language that can be compiled by a resident compiler \& can interface with assembly language subroutines. TINY HI looks good in this respect. The idea here is that system development is just too slow if done in assembly language. Furthermore, assembler listings are very difficult to decipher as to control structures and such. A good procedureoriented language will provide the 3 or 4 basic control structures plus as little else as can be gotten by with. "Efficiency" can well be sacrificed for gains in readability, understandability and maintainability.
2) I would like to encourage you to encourage manufacturers to seek out a few top-notch software types and turn them loose for a few weeks. Promise them a bonus for early completion and institute a penalty clause for late delivery - but get a high-level language compiler out and get it out fast. Once a tool like TINY HI is in the hands of a large number of people, then you'll see some progress. Assembly language is indispensable for certain tasks, but for the bulk of application-programming, it continues to be a millstone around our necks!

## Larry E. Walker

## CAL INTERPRETER PROPOSED

Dear Jim,

I just got Niklaus Wirth's book Systematic Programming: An Introduction (Prentice-Hall, 1973), which is about PASCAL (but not mentioned in the title). I sure had a time finding anything on PASCAL, even in N.Y.C.

I notice that it is ALGOL like in many ways, but it does pick up some of the JOSS and CAL flavor.

This leads me to wonder why Dr. Dobb's is not looking into trying to get CAL interpreters or compilers started.
Joseph F. Gaffney
321 Lyndhurst Ave.
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071
[Great idea! How 'bout sending us a CAL interpreter for some micro, in the next month or two?-Editor]

## HORRORS!-WE LEFT SOME ADDRESSES OUT OF ARTICLES IN PREVIOUS ISSUES

Here they are:
Itty Bitty Computers \& Tom Pittman
Box 23189
San Jose, CA 95153
(408) 578-4944
[October issue. 6800 and 6502 Tiny BASIC
for \$5]
Per Sci
4087 Glenoe Ave.
Marina del Rey, CA 90291
(213) 822-7545
[August issue. Dual-drive floppy disc drive for \$1K with fast voice-coil head positioner]

# NIBL -- Tiny Basic <br> for National's SC/MP Kit complete documentation \& annotated source code 

by Mark Alexander, National Semiconductor Corp. Nov. 29, 1976

## Introduction

NIBL (National Industrial Basic Language) is a machineoriented programming language for the SC/MP. It is a language similar to Tiny BASIC, but it also has some unique features. Many of these features, such as a genuinely useful control structure (the PASCAL-influenced DO/UNTIL) and the indirect operator ("@") have been added to the language to allow NIBL to be nearly as flexible as machine language in such applications as medium-speed process control.

By using NIBL, one trades the high execution speed and low memory consumption of machine language for some very tangible advantages: Program readability, modifiability, and reliability, which are truly difficult to achieve in machine language programs.

NIBL programs are interpreted by a large ( 4 K byte) SC/MP program that resides in ROM. The interpreter is broken into two blocks: a program written in an Intermediate (or Interpretive) Language - I. L. for short - which does the actual interpretation; and a collection of SC/MP machine language sub-routines invoked by the I. L. program. The I.L. approach is well-documented in Vol. 1, No. 1 of Dr. Dobb's Journal of Computer Calisthenics \& Orthodontia, and readers should refer to that issue for a more detailed description of the interpretation process.

In Table 1, the formal grammar for NIBL is given. This is the ultimate authority (other than the interpreter itself) on how legal NIBL statements are formed. The following descriptions of the NIBL statements will refer to portions of the grammar. Table 2 contains a list of the error message produced by the NIBL system. Finally, a listing of the interpreter is given in the Appendix.

## History of NIBL

NIBL came into this world as an interpreter for Tiny BASIC, as originally described in the first issue of Dr. Dobb's Journal. That program was written by Steve Leininger, who subsequently left before the program was ever assembled or executed. The current version of NIBL is an almost complete re-write of the original interpreter, with changes and additions being made to improve the modularity of the program, to greatly increase execution speed, and to extend the capabilities of the language itself.

The program was developed on the PACE Disk Operating System, and was assembled by a PACE-resident cross-assembler for the SC/MP.

[^1]gram. Another 2 K bytes of memory may be added to fill up this 4 K page, forming what is hereafter referred to as "Page 1".

The SC/MP architecture forces memory to be split into pages of 4 K bytes each; therefore, NIBL allows seven such pages to be used for storing programs. NIBL programs in the seven pages are edited separately, but may be linked together during program execution by special NIBL statements described below. The first page, mentioned above, must be RAM since the interpreter uses part of it as temporary storage; the part used to store programs starts at location 111E (base 16).

The other six pages, each of which starts at location n000 (base 16), where $n$ is the page number, may be either RAM or ROM. Page 2 is a special page: it can contain a NIBL program to be executed immediately upon powering up the NIBL system.

The memory organization of NIBL is shown in Figure 1.
Throughout this article, the assumption is made that the user has a teletype with paper tape reader and punch, as with the SC/MP Low Cost Development System. In fact, NIBL was designed to use the LCDS teletype interface, but to be completely independent of the LCDS LCDS firmware. If NIBL is to be run on its own, the system should have the same configuration for the teletype, with the reader relay being operated directly by the SC/MP. At present, paper tape is the only medium for saving NIBL programs, but as soon as the hardware and software for a SC/MP cassette interface become availalbe, NIBL will be able to link to routines for saving and loading programs with ease.

Since the teletype interface is not based on a UART, the terminal baud rate can only be changed by modifying the timed delays in NIBL's I/O routines. NIBL has been run successfully at 1200 baud with a CRT terminal; the listing of the program in the Appendix is for a 110 baud system.
Communicating with NIBL
When the NIBL system is ready to accept input, it prompts at the teletype with a ">" sign. (NIBL is now in "edit mode".) The user then enters a line terminated by a carriage return. There are several special characters that are used to edit lines as they are typed:

Shift/0 (back arrow) cuases the last character typed to be deleted.
Control/ $U$ (echoes as " $U$ ") causes the entire line to be deleted;
NIBL reprompts for a new line.
Entering a line to NIBL without a leading line number causes the line to be executed directly by NIBL. Most NIBL statements, as well as the four program control commands, may be executed in this manner.

A line with a leading number (in the range 0 through 32767) is entered into the NIBL program in the current page. (Make sure that the value of the pseudo-variable PAGE is valid, so that the line isn't lost into non-existent memory.) The NIBL editor sorts the program lines as they are entered into ascending order by line number.

Typing a line number followed by a carriage return deletes that line from the program. Typing a line with the same number as an existing line's causes the new line to replace the old one in the program.

Each of the seven memory pages may contain a different program, separate from the rest. Editing the program in one page will not affect the other pages. To switch editing from one page to another, simply type PAGE $=n$, where $n$ is the number of the new page.

## Variables

There are twenty-six variable names in NIBL: the letters $A$ through $Z$. They are all 16 -bit binary variables, so they can be used to hold addresses as well as signed numeric data. The variables are already pre-declared for the user, and space is allocated for them in RAM when NIBL powers up.

## Constants

NIBL allows either decimal or hexadecimal (base 16) constants to appear in expressions. Decimal constants must lie in the range 0
through 32767; the unary minus ("-") is used to obtain negative values. The value -32768 is a valid NIBL integer, but it is not legal as it stands. To represent it, use $-32767-1$ or $\# 8000$ instead.

Hexadecimal constants are denoted by a pound sign (" ${ }^{\# \prime}$ ") followed by a string of hexadecimal digits ( $0-9$, A-F). NIBL does not check for overrun in hex constants; consequently, only the 4 least significant digits of the nex digit string are kept.

## Functions

NIBL provides three built-in functions that may appear in any expression. These are described as follows:

RND ( $\mathrm{X}, \mathrm{Y}$ ) returns a pseudo-random integer in the range $X$ through $T$, inclusive, where $X$ and $Y$ are arbitrary expressions.
$T$, inclusive, where $X$ and $Y$ are arbitrary expressions. In order for the function to work properly, the value of $\mathrm{Y}-\mathrm{X}$ should be positive and no greater than 32767.

MOD $(X, Y)$ returns the absolute value of the remainder from $X$ divided by $Y$ (where $X$ and $Y$ are expressions).

TOP (with no arguments) returns the address of the first free byte in the memory page currently being edited or executed. In ather words, it is the address of the top of the NIBL program in the current page, plus one.

## Pseudo-variables

NIBL has two pseudo-variables in addition to the standard variables. These are STAT and PAGE. Both of these varialbes may appear on either side of an assignment statement.

STAT represents the SC/MP status register. The current value of the status register can be referred to by using STAT in an expression; or an assignment may be made to the status register by executing a statement such as STAT $=4$ or STAT = STAT OR \#20. When NIBL makes an assignment to the status register in this manner, it clears the interrupt-enable bit of the value before it is actually assigned. Note also that only the lower byte of the value is assigned; the high byte is ignored.

The carry and overflow bits in STAT are meaningless since the NIBL system is continually modifying them. The utility of STAT lies in the fact that 5 of its bits are connected to I/O sense lines on the SC/MP chip.

The pseudo-variable PAGE contains the number of the memory page currently being executed or edited. As indicated in Figure 1, there are seven pages in which NIBL programs may be stored; therefore, PAGE may lie only in the range 1 through 7. If an assignment of a value outside this range is made to PAGE, only the 3 least significant bits of the value are used - and zero is automatically changed to one.

If PAGE is modified while NIBL is in edit mode, all subsequent editing will take place in the new page.

If PAGE is modified by a NIBL program during execution, control will be passed to. the first line of the NIBL program in the new page. This transfer would be effected by a statement such as PAGE = 6 or PAGE $=$ PAGE + 1. Thus, several NIBL programs residing in different $4 K$ pages may be linked together as one large program, if need be. This would allow one to write a $28 K$ STAR TREK program in NIBL, a Herculean and indeed foolish task.

Control may also be transferred from one page to another by three other statements: RETURN, NEXT, and UNTIL. Thus, the first part of a subroutine or loop may be in one page, and the second part may be in another (with control being transferred between the two parts by an assignment to PAGE). In these three special cases, NIBL automatically updates the value of PAGE as the statements are executed.

## Relational Operators

NIBL provides the standard BASIC relational operators, for comparing the values of integer expressions. The operators are as follows:

| $=$ | equal to |
| :--- | :--- |
| $<=$ | less than or equal to |
| $>=$ | greater than or equal to |
| $\gg$ | not equal to |
| $>$ | less than |
| $>$ | greater than |

All of these operators produce 1 as a result if the relation is true, and 0 if the relation is false. Note that the relational operators may appear anywhere that an expression is called for in the NIBL grammar, not only in IF statements.

## Arithmetic Operators

NIBL provides the four standard arithmetic functions: addition (+), subtraction or unary minus (-), multiplication (*), and division (/). Since only integers are allowed in NIBL, all quotients are truncated (the MOD function can be used to obtain remainders from division). Any overflow or underflow (other than division by zero) is ignored by NIBL; the reasoning behind this is that it may often be necessary to treat NIBL expressions as unsigned values, such as when performing calculations using memory addresses as the operands. Thus the value of $32767+1$ is -32768 (or in hexadecimal, \#7FFF $+1=\# 8000$, which
makes more sense).

## Logical Operators

In NIBL, there are three logical operations that may be performed on values: AND, OR, and NOT. The first two are binary operators, and the latter is unary. All three perform bitwise logical operations on 16 -bit arguments, producing 16 -bit results. AND, OR, and NOT are sufficient to simulate any other logical operation, through various combinations of the operators.

## The Indirect Operator

The indirect operator "@" realizes the functions of PEEK and POKE operations in other BASICs, but with somewhat more elegance. The "@" sign followed by an address (wheih can be a constant, variable, or expression in parentheses) denotes the contents of that address in memory. Thus, if memory location 245 (decimal) contains 60, the statement $X=$ @ 245 would result in the value 60 being assigned to $X$. The indirect operator may also appear on the left side of an assignment statement. For example, $@ X=@(Y+10)$ would result in the memory location pointed to by $X$ being assigned the value of the memory location pointed to by the value $\mathrm{Y}+10$.

Despite this, it is still safest to use plenty of parentheses in expressions to make the intent clear.

Use of the indirect operator is not limited to reading from or writing to memory: it also provides a simple way to communicate with peripheral devices that are interfaced to the SC/MP through memory addresses. Note that the " @" operator can only access memory one byte at a time, and that when an assignment is made to a memory location, only the low order byte of the value is moved to the location; the high order byte is ignored.

The indirect operator can also be used to simulate arrays in NIBL. For example, if we wish to define an $\mathrm{M} \times \mathrm{N}$ matrix of onebyte positive integers, we can access the ( $1, J$ ) th element of the matrix (assuming that $(0,0)$ is a legal element in the matrix) with the expression @( $\left.\mathrm{A}+\mathrm{I}^{*} \mathrm{~N}+\mathrm{J}\right)$. An assignment could be made to that same element by placing the expression on the left side of an assignment statement.

## Expressions

Expressions in NIBL are made up of the components described above: variables, constants, function references, pseudo-variables, and operators binding them all together. NIBL expressions are all 16-bit integers. Evaluation of expressions takes place left-to-right, and the order in which operations take place is determined by operator precedence and the presence of parentheses. The order of evaluation can be deduced from the grammar in Table 1; here is a table of operator precedence:

Lowest precedence (applied last): $\langle\rangle,,\langle=\rangle=,,=,\langle \rangle$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& +,-, \text { OR } \\
& *, 1, \text { AND }
\end{aligned}
$$

Highest precedence (applied first) : @, NOT

## Program Control Commands

LIST causes the entire program in the current page to be listed. Listing can be halted by hitting any key on the teletype: the BREAK key works best.

LIST <number > causes listing to begin at the given line number (or the nearest one greater than the number), rather than at the first line.

LISTing a program is the method used to save it on paper tape. To accomplish this, type LIST with the punch off, then turn on the punch and hit carriage return. After the program is dumped, type a Shift/0 with teletype on LOCAL so that the last character ( $a^{\prime \prime}>$ ") will be deleted when the tape is entered to NIBL at a later time. NIBL will accept a tape made in this fashion at any time during edit mode. The tape reader is enabled at all times by NIBL, and it does not distinguish between the reader and the keyboard when accepting input. Superfluous line-feed and null characters on the tape are echoed but ignored.

RUN causes three actions: first, all variables are zeroed; secondly, all stakes (the FOR, DO, and GOSUB stacks) are cleared; and finally the program in the current page is executed, starting with the first line in sequence.

RUN is not the only way to start program execution: GOTO and GOSUB can slo be used to jump into a program from edit mode. For example, if there is a subroutine at line 1000 that is being tested, typing GOSUB 1000 will cause that routine to be executed, with NIBL returning to edit mode upon encourntering a RETURN statement. When GOTO and GOSUB are used to run a program, the variables and stacks are not cleared.

Hitting any key while a program is being run will cause NIBL to break execution, printing a message and the line number where the break was detected. The BREAK key on the teletype works best for this.

CLEAR causes all variables to be zeroed and the three stacks mentioned above to be cleared. This latter feature of the CLEAR command
is quite useful after a stack nesting error has occurred (for example, if GOSUBS are nested more than eight levels deep).

NEW clears the programs in Page 1, and changes the value of PAGE to 1. This is the form of the command most likely to be used by NIBL novices who do not wish to be confused by the page selection features of NIBL. NEW should be the first thing one types in to NIBL when first powering up.

NEW <number > sets the value of PAGE to the <number $>$, and clears the program in that page.

## Assignment Statements

Already, two different types of assignment statements have been mentioned: assignments to the pseudo-variables STAT and PAGE, and assignments to memory locations with the indirect operator. Another form of the assignment statement is the conventional assignment to a variable $(A-Z)$, e.g. $A=A+$ ! or $A=32<(14 * 1)$. There are also statements which look like string assignments, but there are not standard BASIC, and are described later in the section on string handling. The word "LET" is optional in front of any assignment statement (leaving it out increases execution speed, unlike most Tiny BASIC systems).

## If/then Statement

The IF statements allows conditional execution of one or more statements (as many as can fit on one line). The syntax for the $1 F$ statement is:
'IF' Rel-exp 'THEN'? Statement
which indicates that the word THEN is optional, and that any
statement (including another IF statement) may follow the
conditional expression. If the IF condition is true (i.e. is nonzero), the statement following it (and any others on the line) will be executed; otherwise, control immediately transfers to the next program line. The condition does not need to contain relational operators: a statement such as IF MOD (A,5) THEN.... is perfectly legal. In this example, the statement foliowing the THEN would be executed if $A$ were not divisible by 5 .

## GOTO, GOSUB, AND RETURN STATEMENTS

The syntax for the GOTO statement is 'GOTO' followed by an expression. The effect of the GOTO statement is to transfer control to the line whose number is indicated by the expression. An error occurs if the specified line does not exist in the current page. Unlike standard BASICs, any arbitrary expression can be used to specify the line number. as well as the usual decimal constant. This allows computed branches to be performed with the same effect as the ON... GOTO statement in standard BASIC.

The GOSUB statement is identical to the GOTO statement in form. It too causes a branch to a new line, but it also saves the address of the following statement on a stack. When a RETURN statement is executed, the saved address is popped from the stack, and control returns to that point in the program. Since an actual address, not a line number, is saved on the GOSUB stack, GOSUB statements may appear anywhere on a multiple-statement line.

GOSUBs may be nested up to eight levels deep; an error will occur if an attempt is made to exceed this limit. The error condition does not destroy the previous contents of the stack, so a RETUPN statement can be executed (even in edit mode) without an error occurring. However, any modification of the NIBL program will clear the GOSUB stack, so that a subsequent RETURN without a GOSUB will cause an error.

## DO AND UNTIL STATEMENTS

The DO and UNTIL statements are useful in writing program loops efficiently, without using misleading GOTO statements. Enclosing a group of zero or more statements between a DO statement and an UNTIL <condition> statement (where < condition> is an arbitrary expression) will cause the statement group to be repeated one or more times until the <condition> becomes true (i.e., non-zero). As an example of the use of the DO and UNTIL statements, we present a program that prints the prime numbers:

10 PRINT 1: PRINT 2
$201=3$
30 DO
$40 \quad \mathrm{~J}=1 / 2: \mathrm{N}=2$
50
60
60
70
80
80
90
DO
$\mathrm{N}=\mathrm{N}+2$
UNTIL (MOD (I, $N=0)$ OR $(N>d)$
IFN>JPRINTI
$1=1+2$
100 UNTILO
DO loops may be nested up to eight levels deep, and NIBL acts in the same manner if an overflow occurs as it does with a GOSUB overflow. NIBL also reports an error if an UNTIL statements occurs without a previous DO. A single DO loop mav have more than one UNTIL statement as a terminator. For example, if one wished to exit abnor-
mally out of a DO loop and transfer to some appropriate line, it could be done in the following manner:

UNTH 1: GOTOX
where $X$ is the line number.
Neither the DO nor the UNTIL statement may be executed in edit mode.

## FOR AND NEXT STATEMENTS

The NIBL FOR statement is virtually identical to that in standard BASICs; consequently, it is not explained in great detail here.

As in most BASICs, both positive and negative STEPs are allowed in the FOR statement, and a STEP of +1 is assumed if the STEP portion of the statement is omitted. A FOR loop is terminated by a NEXT <variable> statement, and the <variable> must be the same as that referred to in the FOR statement at the beginning of the loop.

FOR loops may be nested four levels deep; NIBL reports an error if this limit is exceeded, or if a NEXT statement occurs without a previous FOR statement. As with the DO and UNTIL statements, FOR and NEXT may not be executed in edit mode.

Perhaps the only differences between the NIBL FOR statement and that of more elaborate BASICs (such as DEC's BASIC-PLUS for the PDP-11) are that a FOR loop is always executed at least once, and that when a NEXT statement is executed, the STEP value is added to the variable before the test is made to determine if the loop should be repeated (rather than after the test).

## INPUT STATEMENT

There are two types of INPUT statements in NIBL: numeric input and string input. The form of the first type is 'INPUT' followed by a list of one or more variables. When this statement is executed, NIBL prompts at the teletype with a question mark ("?"). The user responds with a list of expressions separated by commas, and terminated by a carriage return. For example, a legal response to the statement INPUT $A, B, C$ would be $\% 3 F A, 26,4 * 27$. These three expressions would then be assigned to the variables $A, B$, and $C$, respectively. An illegal response (too few arguments or improper expressions) will result in a syntax error. Any extra arguments in the response are ignored.

The second type of INPUT statement allows strings to be input. The form of the statement is 'INPUT' '\$s <address>, where <address> is a Factor, syntactically (usually a variable, constant, or expression in parentheses). When this statement is executed, NIBL prompts the user as before, at which point the user enters a line terminated by the usual carriage return. NIBL then stores the line in memory in consecutive locations, beginning at the address specified. Thus, INPUT\$ \#6000 would cause the input line to be stored starting at location 6000 (base 16); the carriage return would also be stored at the end of the line.

Strings input in this manner can be tested and manipulated by using the "@" operator or the string handling statements described below. They can also be displayed by a PRINT statement.

Neither of the two INPUT statements may be executed in edit mode.

## PRINTSTATEMENT

The form of the PRINT statement is 'PRINT' or 'PR' followed by a list of print items separated by commas, and optionally terminated by a semicolon, which suppresses an otherwise automatic carriage return after all items in the list are printed.

A print item consists of one of the following:

1. A quoted string, which is printed exactly as it appears (with the quotes removed)
2. An expression, which is evaluated and printed in decimal format, with either a leading space or a minus sign ("-"), and one trailing space
3. A reference to a string in memory, denoted by '\$' < address>. where <address> is a Factor as usual. Successive memory locations, starting at the specified address, are printed as ASCII characters, until a carriage return (which is not printed) is encountered.
There is no zone spacing in the PRINT statement, nor does NIBL parform an automatic carriage return/line feed after printing 72 characters. NIBL is not an output-oriented language; fancy formatting has been sacrificed for more usefu! control structures and data manipulation features. (A subroutine to print a number and skip to the next print zone is trivial to write in NIBL - it takes about two lines of code, with the DO/UNTIL and FOR/NEXT.)

## STRINGHANDLING STATEMENTS

String handling in NIBL is very minimal and low-level. The string handling features of the INPUT and PRINT statements have already been mentioned; NIBL provides two more statements for manipulating strings.

A statement such as $\phi<$ address $>=$ "THIS IS A STRING" would cause the quoted string to be stored in memory starting at the specified address (which again is a Factor), with a carriage return being appended to the string.

Another statement allows the programmer to move strings around in memory once they have been created. The form of this statement is '\$' <destination> '=' '\$' <source>, where both <destination> and <source> are Factors, and are the addresses of strings in memory. This statement causes all the characters in the string pointed to by <source> to be copied one-by-one to the memory pointed to by <destination> until a carriage return (also copied) is encountered. Overlapping the source and destination addresses can produce disastrous results, such as wiping out the entire contents of the current page. Consequently, a String move can be aborted by hitting the BREAK key on the teletype (but it must be done quickly!).

Note that all strings referred to in these statements, and in the 1 N PUT and PRINT statements, are assumed to lie within a $4 K$ page, and wraparound is a possibility which must be anticipated by the programmer. (Long-time SC/MP programmers will be familiar with this minor problem.)

Using these statements, it should be very easy to develop a set of NIBL subroutines for performing concatenation, comparison, and substring operations on strings.

## END STATEMENT

The END statement may appear anywhere in a NIBL program and not necessarily at the end. It causes a message and the current line number to be printed, with NIBL returning to edit mode. The END statement is useful when debugging programs, since it acts as a breakpoint in the program that can be removed easily.

## LINK STATEMENT

The LINK statement allows NIBL programs to call SC/MP machine language routines at any address. A statement of the form 'LINK' <address>, where <address> is an arbitrary expression, will cause the NIBL system to call the routine at that address by executing an appropriate XPPC P3 instruction. The user's routine should make sure that it returns by executing another XPPC P3, and that the value of P3 upon entry to the routine is restored before returning. The routine may make use of the fact that $P 2$ is set by NIBL to point to the beginning of the RAM block used to store the variables $A$ through $Z_{\text {s }}$ with each variable being stored low byte first, high byte second. Thus, parameters may be passed between NIBL programs and machine language routines through the variables. Both P1 and P2 may be modified by the user's routines; they are automatically restored by the NIBL system upon return. The user should be careful not to modify RAM locations with negative displacements relative to P2, or the locations with displacements greater than 51 relative to P2. These locations are used by the interpreter.

## REMARK STATEMENT

A comment can be inserted into a NIBL program by preceding it with the word REM. REM causes the rest of the line to be ignored by NIBL during execution. Remarks are useful in debugging programs or helping other people to understand them, but of course, they take up valuable memory. (Then again, memory is getting cheaper all the time.)

## MULTIPLE STATEMENTS ON ONE LINE

A program line may contain more than one statement, if the statements are separated by colons (": $:^{\prime \prime}$ ). Using multiple statements on a single line improves the readability of the program by separating it into small blocks, and uses less memroy for storing the program.

It is important to note that an IF statement will cause any statements appearing after it on the line to be ignored if the IF condition turns out to be false. This is the feature that allows a group of statements to be executed conditionally.

A multiple-statement line may be entered without a line number but NIBL will only execute the first statement on the line, ignoring the rest.

## POWERING UP

NIBL is capable of executing a program in ROM in Page 2 immediately upon powering up, without the need for the user to give the RUN command at the teletype. When NIBL initializes, it examines Page 2 and makes an educated guess about the possible existence of a legal NIBL program in that page. If NIBL thinks there really is a program there, it starts executing it immediately; thus, if the program halts for some reason, the value of PAGE will be 2. But if NIBL fails to find a legal program in Page 2 initially, it sets the value of PAGE to 1 (the normal case) and prompts at the teletype.

When executing programs, NIBL periodically checks for keyboard interrupt, returning to edit mode if it detects it. Therefore, if a NIBL program is to be executed with the teletype disconnected, the Sense $B$ line of the SC/MP should be set high so that NIBL will not sense an interrupt while running. This would allow a NIBL system to act as a process controller which starts executing immediately upon powering up.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE
Mark Alexander, a graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz, is getting bored with assembly language programming, and wishes someone would save him by making a microprocessor copy of the Burroughs B5500 computer.

## TABLE 1: NIBL Grammar

On reading the grammar:
All items in single quotes are actual symbols in NIBL; all other identities are symbols in the grammar. The equals sign "' $=$ ", means "is defined as"; parentheses are used to group several items together as one item; the exclamation point, " $!$ ". means an exclusive-or choice between the items on either side of it; the asterisk, "\#"t, means zero or more occurrences of the item to its left; the plus sign, " + ", means one or more repetitions; the question mark, "?", means zero or one occurrences; and the semicolon, ";". marks the end of a definition.

```
NIBL-Iine = Immediare-Statement
    ! Program-Line
;
Immediate-Statement = (Command & Statement) Carriage-Return;
Program-Line = (Decimal-Number Statement-List Carriage-Return):
Command = 'NEW'
    1'CLEAR"
    ' LIST' Decimal-Number ?
    ! RUN"
Statement-List = Statement (':' STATEMENT) #%
Statmment = 'LET' ? Left-part '=' Rel-Exp
    | 'LET' ?'$' Eactor '=' (String | '$' Factor)
    ! 'GO' ('TO' ! 'SUB') Rel-Exp
    ! 'RETURN'
    ('PR' ! 'PRINT') Print-List
        ! IF' Rel-Expr 'THEN' ? Statement
        ! 'DO'
            'UNTIL' Rel-Exp
            'FOR' Variable
            ''NEXT' Variable'=' Rel-Exp 'TO' Rel-Exp ('STEP' Rel-Exp) ?
            ! 'INPUT' (Variable +1 '$' Factor)
            1 'LINK' Rel-Exp
            ! LINK Re
            'REM' Any-Character-Ercept-Carriage-Return &
            ! 'END"
Left-Part = (Variable & "e" Factor | 'STAT" & 'PAGE') %
Rel-Erp = Expression Relop Expression
    Brpression
```



```
Expression = Expression Adding-Operator tera
        ! (0% ! 0-0) ? Term
Adding-Operator = ' }\mp@subsup{\mp@code{*' & ' - | & 'OR' %}}{0}{\prime
Term = Term Multiplying-Operator Factor
    | Factor
ltiplying-Operator = "的 & %/ | 'AND' &
Faccor = Variable
    1 Decimal-Number
    '('Rel-Exp ')'
    | 'e" Factor
    'n' Hex-Number
    "NOT" Factor
    "MOD' "("Rel-Exp %'Rel-Exp ')'
    'RND' "(" Rel-ExP ": Rel-Exp ijo
        "STAT"
        "PAGEO
Variable = ' A' & 'B' & 'C' & ... & 'Y' & 'g' &
Decimal-Number = Decimal-Digit + 8
Decimal-Digit = '0' & '1' & '20 & 0.0 1 '9' %
Hex-Number = (Decimal-Digit | Hex-Digit) & ;
```



```
Print-1igt = Print-Item + :
Print-Item = (String | zel-exp & "$' Factor) :
Stzing = 0no Almost-Any-Character ono :
```

NOTE: Spaces are not usually significant in NIBL programs, with the following exceptions: spaces cannot appear within key words (such as "THEN' or "UNTIL') or within constants. Also, a variable (such as A or $Z$ ) must be followed immediately by a non-alphabetic character to distinguish it from a key word.

TABLE 1: NIBL Grammar
TABLE 2: NIBL error messages
Error messages are of the form:

## EEEE ERROR AT LN

where EEEE is one of the error codes below, and LN is the number of of the line in which the error was encountered.

| AREA | No more room left for program in current page |
| :--- | :--- |
| CHAR | Character after logical end of statement |
| DIVO | Division by zero |
| END' | No ending quote on string |
| FOR | FOR without NEXT |
| NEST | Nesting limit exceeded in expression, FOR's, GOSUBs, etc. |
| NEXT | NEXT without FOR |
| NOGO | Noline number corresponding to GOTO or GOSUB |
| RTRN | RETURN without previous GOSUB |
| SNTX | Syntax error |
| STMT | Statement type used improperly |
| UNTL | UNTL without DO |
| VALU | Constant format or value error |



## CODE FOLLOWS

## KILOBAUD - A PRENATEL NAME CHANGE

John Craig, the Editor of Wayne Green's new computer hobby mag, just phoned and told us that Wayne has changed the publication's name - before the first issues comes out from the initially advertised "Kilobyte" to Kilobaud. Oh, well . . . we're still waiting for someone to start yet another rag and call it "Megabyte" (but with luck, that won't happen).

COMPUTER HOBBYIST CONVENTIONS \& TRADE SHOWS


Note: This list excludes a number of conventions directed towards computer professionals that are expected to have at least nominal activity in the area of personal and hobby computing. Although the ' 77 NCC is primarily for computer professionals, its Personal Computing Section will be a major activity with a number of significant sessions and events planned for personal computer enthusiasts.




|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | ; \# | CHECK S | ATEMENT FINISHED | * |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0135 | C501 | DONE: | LD | @1(P1) | ; SKIP SPACES |
| 0137 | E420 |  | XRI | , ¢ |  |
| 0139 | 98FA |  | JZ | DONE |  |
| 013B | E42D |  | XRI | , ' ! OD | ; IS IT CARRIAGE RETURN? |
| 013 D | 9804 |  | JZ | DONE1 | ; YES - RETURN |
| 013 F | E437 |  | XRI | 037 | ; IS CHAR A ' ${ }^{\prime}$ ' ? |
| 0141 | $9 \mathrm{CO1}$ |  | JNZ | DONE2 | ; NO - ERROR |
| 0143 | $3 F$ | DONE1: | XPPC | P3 | ; YES - RETURN |
| 0144 | C404 | DONE2: | LDI | 4 |  |
| 0146 | 9008 |  | JMP | EO |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | ; RETURN |  | Rom gosub | * |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0148 | C2FC | RSTR: | LD | SBRPTR(P2) |  |
| 014A | E46A |  | XRI | L(SBRSTK) | ; CHECK FOR RETURN |
| 014C | 9 CO 4 |  | JNZ | RSTR1 | ; W/O GOSUB. |
| O14E | C409 |  | LDI | 9 |  |
| 0150 | 9043 | EO: RSTR1: | JMF | E1 | ; GOTO ERROR. |
| 0152 | BAFC |  | DLD | SBRPTR(P2) |  |
| 0154 | BAFC |  | DLD | SBRPTR(P2) | ; POP GOSUB STACK, |
| 0156 | 33 |  | XPAL | P3 | ; PUT PTR INTO P3. |
| 0157 | C410 |  | LDI | H(SBRSTK) |  |
| 0159 | 37 |  | XPAH | P3 |  |
| 015A | C301 |  | LD | 1 (P3) | ; IF ADDRESS NEGATIVE, |
| 0150 | 9409 |  | JP | RSTR2 | ; SUBROUTINE WAS CALLED |
| O15E | C402 |  | 15 | P3, FIN | ; IN IMMEDIATE MODE, |
| 0165 | 9085 | X1: <br> RSTRZ: | JMP | Xo | ; SO FINISH UP EXECUTING |
| 0167 | 35 |  | $X \mathrm{PAH}$ | P1 | ; RESTORE CURSOR HIGH |
| 0168 | C300 |  | LD | O(PS) |  |
| 016A | 31 |  | XFAL | P1 | ; RESTORE CURSOR LOW |
| O16B | C401 |  | LDI | 1 | ; SET RUN MODE |
| $\begin{aligned} & 016 \mathrm{D} \\ & 016 \mathrm{~F} \end{aligned}$ | CAF4 |  | ST | RUNMOD(P2) |  |
|  | 90F4 |  | JMP | X1 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | TRANSFER TO NEW STATEMENT |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0171 | C2F2 | XFER: | LD | LABLHI (P2) | ; CHECK FOR NON-EXISTENT LI |
| 0173 | 9404 |  | JF | XFER1 |  |
| 0175 | C408 |  | LDI | 8 | , |
| 0177 | 901 C |  | JMP | E1 |  |
| 0179 | C401 | XFER1: | LDI | 1 | ; SET RUN MODE TO 1 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 017 B \\ & 017 D \end{aligned}$ | CAF4 |  | ST | RUNMOD(P2) |  |
|  | 3F |  | XPPE | P3 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | ; * PRINT STRING IN TEXT |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 017E |  | PRS: | LDPI | P3, PUTC-1 | ; POINT P3 AT PUTC ROUTINE |
| 0184 | C501 |  | LD | @1(P1) | ; LOAD NEXT CHAR |
| 0186 | E422 |  | XRI | - 1 ' | ; IF ", END OF |
| 0188 | 98DE |  | JZ | $\times 1$ | ; STRING |
| 018A | E42F |  | XRI | 02F | ; IF CR, ERROR |
| 018 C | 9805 |  | JZ | PRS 1 |  |
| O18E | E40D |  | XRI | OD | ; RESTORE CHAR |
| 0190 | 3 F |  | XPPC | P3 | ; FRINT CHAR |
| 0191 | 90EB |  | JMP | PRS | ; GET NEXT CHAR |
| 0193 | C.407 | PRS1: | LDI | 7 | ; SYNTAX ERROR |
| 0195 | 9035 | E1: | JMP | E2 |  |
|  |  | ; \#\#* ${ }^{\text {\% }}$ | ****** | **\#\#********\#\#*** | ******* |
|  |  | ; ${ }^{\text {* }}$ | PRINT | MEER ON STACK | * |
|  |  | ; \#**** | ****\#\#\# | **\#\#\#\#\#\#\#\#\#\#****** | ******* |


| RTN: | LDI | H(PCSTAK) | ; POINT P3 AT I. L. PC STACK |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | XPAH LD | P3 PCSTK(P2) |  |
|  | XPAL | P3 |  |
|  | LD | @-1(P3) | ; GET HIGH PART OF OLD PC |
|  | XAE |  |  |
|  | LD | e-1(P3) | ; GET LOW PART OF OLD PC |
|  | XPAL | P3 |  |
|  | ST | FCSTK(F2) | ; UPDATE IL STACK POINTER |
|  | LDE |  |  |
|  | XPAH | P3 | ; P3 NOW HAS OLD IL PC |
|  | .JMP | CHEATI |  |
| EOA: | JMP | EO |  |


| SAV: | LD | SBRPTR(P2) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | XRI | L(DOSTAK) | ; CHECK FOR MORE |
|  | JZ | SAV2 | ; THAN 8 SAVES |
|  | ILD | SBRPTR(P2) |  |
|  | ILD | SBRPTR(P2) |  |
|  | XPAL | P3 | ; SET P3 TO |
|  | LDI | H(SBRSTK) | ; SUBROUTINE STACK TOP. |
|  | XPAH | P3 |  |
|  | LD | RUNMOD (P2) | ; IF IMMEDIATE MODE, |
|  | JZ | SAV1 | ; SAVE NEGATIVE ADDRESS. |
|  | XFAH | P1 | ; SAVE HIGH PORTION |
|  | ST | -1(P3) | ; OF CURSOR |
|  | XPAH | P1 |  |
|  | XPAL | P1 | ; SAVE LOW PORTION |
|  | ST | -2(P3) | ; OF CURSOR |
|  | XPAL | P1 |  |
|  | JMP | X0 | ; RETURN |
| SAV1: | LDI | -1 | ; IMMEDIATE MODE |
|  | ST | -1(P3) | ; RETURN ADDRESS IS |
|  | JMP | XO | ; NEGATIVE. |
| SAVZ: | LDI | 10 | ; ERROR: MORE THAN |
|  | JMP | EO | ; 8 GOSUBS |

O1CE AAFD
01DO AAFD $01 D 231$ $01 \mathrm{D3}$ C410
010535
O1D5 35
$01 D 6$ AAE7
$01 D 6$ AAE7
0108 01
0109 C101
O1D8 Cl 101
O1DB DC30
01 DB DC30
01 DD C980
O1DF C1FD
O1E1 D9FC
$01 E 3$ 980A
O1ES C4OF
O1E7 CAFA
$01 E 9$ C42F
O1ES C42F
O1EB CAFB
O1ED $9 O D B$
O1EB
$01 E D$
$01 E F$
01 EF
$01 F 5$
0
$01 F 5$ C2F5
$01 F 79 C 06$
01F7 9 C06
01F9
01FB
OF
O1FB $3 F$
$01 F C$
C2E7
O1FE 01
O1FC C2E7
O1FE O1
O1FF C580
OLFF C580
0201 C100
0203 KF
0204 CSFF
0206 L
0204 CFFF
020694 FB
$0208 \mathrm{C450}$
0206 C4FB
0208 C4FO
O20A CAFD
O20C C2F5
O20C C2F5
020 E 9CBA
0210 C420
0210 C420
0212 3F
0213 90B5

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text {; } \\
& \text {; } \\
& \text {; }
\end{aligned}
$$

|  |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| 0197 | $C 410$ |
| 0199 | 37 |
| $019 A$ | $A A F D$ |
| $019 C$ | $A A F D$ |
| $019 E$ | 33 |
| $019 F$ | $C 40 A$ |
| $01 A 1$ | $C B F E$ |
| $01 A 3$ | $C 400$ |
| $01 A 5$ | $C B F F$ |
| $01 A 7$ | $C 405$ |
| $01 A 9$ | $C A E 7$ |
| $01 A B$ | $C 4 F F$ |
| $01 A D$ | $C B O 5$ |
| $01 A F$ | $C 3 F D$ |
| $01 B 1$ | 9413 |
| $01 B 3$ | $C 42 D$ |
| $01 B 5$ | $C B 04$ |
| $01 B 7$ | $C 400$ |
| $01 B 9$ | 03 |
| $01 B A$ | $F B F C$ |
| $01 B C$ | $C B F C$ |
| $01 B E$ | $C 400$ |
| $01 C 0$ | $F B F D$ |
| $01 C 2$ | $C B F D$ |
| $01 C 4$ | $909 F$ |
| $01 C 6$ | $C 420$ |
| $01 C 8$ | $C B 04$ |
| $01 C A$ | 9099 |
| $01 C C$ | 9057 |

## 0215

021 B C40D
021 B C4O
O21E C4OA
$\begin{array}{ll}0220 & 3 F \\ 0221 & 90 A 7\end{array}$

|  |  |  | LOCAL |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0223 | C405 | ERR: | LDI | 5 | ; SYNTAX ERROR |
| 0225 | CAEB | ERR1: | ST | NUM (P2) | ; SAVE ERROR ${ }^{\underline{\omega}}$ |
| 0227 | C2EE | ERR2: | LD | NUM(P2) |  |
| 0229 | CAEA |  | ST | TEMP (P2) |  |
| 022E |  |  | LDPI | P3, FUTC-1 | ; POINT P3 AT PUTC |
| 0231 | C40D |  | LDI | OD | ; PRINT CR/LF |
| 0233 | 3 F |  | XPPC | P3 |  |
| 0234 | C4OA |  | LDI | OA |  |
| 0236 | 3 F |  | XPPC | P3 |  |
| 0237 |  |  | LDPI | P1, MESGS | ;P1 -> ERROR MESSAGES |
| 023D | BAEB | \$1: | DLD | NUM(P2) | ; IS THIS THE RIGHT MESSAGE? |
| 023 F | 9806 |  | dZ | \$MSG | ; YES - GO PRINT IT |
| 0241 | C501 | \$LOOP: | L.D | @1(P1) | ; NO - SCAN THROUGH TO |
| 0243 | 94 FC |  | JP | \$LOOP | NEXT MESSAGE |
| 0245 | 90F6 |  | JMP | \$1 |  |
| 0247 | C501 | \$MSO: | LD | @1(F1) | ; GET MESSAGE CHAR |
| 0249 | 3 F |  | XPPC | P3 | ; PRINT IT |
| 024A | C1FF |  | LD | -1(F1) | ; IS MESSAGE DONE? |
| 024 C | 94F9 |  | JP | \$MSG | ; NO - GET NEXT CHAR |
| 024E | C2EA |  | LD | TEMP (P2) | ; WAS this a break message? |
| 0250 | E4DE |  | XRI | 14 |  |
| 0252 | 9800 |  | JZ | \$3 | ; YES - SKIP PRINTING 'ERROR' |
| 0254 |  |  | LDP I | P1, MESGS | ; NO - PRINT 'ERROR' |
| 025A | c501 | \$2: | LD | @1(P1) | ; GET CHARACTER |
| 0250 | 3 F |  | XPPC | P3 | ;PRINT IT |
| 6251 | C1FF |  | LD | -1(P1) | ; DONE? |


| 025 F | 9459 | \$3: | .JP | \$2 | ; No - repeat loop |  | 3F |  | XPPC | P3 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 02 l 1 | C2F4 |  | LD | RUNMOD (P2) | ; DON'T PRINT LINE \# | 032 A | 02 |  | cCL |  |  |
|  | 9840 |  | JZ | Fin | ; If immediate mode | 032 B | c447 |  | LDI | L(LISt3) |  |
| 0265 | C420 |  | LDI |  |  | 0320 | CAFB |  | ST | FCLOW(P2) |  |
| $0 \geq 67$ | 3 F |  | XPPC | Fs | ; Space | 032 F | c 40 C |  | LDI | H(LIST3) |  |
| Ozes | c.441 |  | LDI | A |  | 0331 | CAFA |  | ST | PCHIGH(P2) |  |
| O2eA | 3 F |  | XFFP | P3 |  | 0333 | 90 AC |  | JMP | LST | ; GET NEXT LINE |
| 026 E | $\bigcirc 454$ |  | LDI | T |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 028 D | 3 F |  | XPPC | P3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| O26E | C410 |  | LDI | H(AESTK) | ; POINT FS AT A. E. STACK |  |  | ; ***** | ****** | ********* | ******* |
| 0270 | 37 |  | XPAH | P3 |  |  |  | ;* |  | and subtr | * |
| 0271 | AAFD |  | ILD | LSTK (PZ) |  |  |  | ;***** | ****** | ********** | ****** |
| 0273 | AAFD |  | ILD | LETK(P2) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0275 | 33 |  | XPAL | P3 |  | 0335 | C410 | ADD: | LDI | H(AESTK) | ; SET P3 TO CURRENT- |
| 0276 | C2F7 |  | LD | HILINE(P2) | ; GET HIGH BYTE OF LINE \# | 0337 | 37 |  | XPAH | P3 | ; Stack location |
| 0278 | CBFF |  | ST | -1(F3) | ; PUT ON STACK | 0338 | BAFD |  | DLD | LSTK(P2) |  |
| 027 A | c2Fe |  | LD | LOLINE(F2) | ; GET LOW BYTE OF LINE \# | 033 A | BAFD |  | DLD | LSTK(P2) |  |
| 027 C | CBFE |  | ST | -2(P3) | ; PUT ON STACK | 033С | 33 |  | XPAL |  |  |
| 027 E | C42D |  | LDI | L(ERRNUM) | ; GO TO PRN | 033 D | 02 |  | CCL |  |  |
| 0280 | CAFE |  | ST | PCLOW(P2) |  | 033 E | C3FE |  | LD | -2(P3) | ; REPLACE TWO TOP ITEMS |
| 0282 | C4OE |  | LDI | H(ERRNUM) |  | 0340 | F300 |  | ADD | 0 O(P3) | ; ON StACK by their sum |
| 0284 0286 | CAFA |  | ST | PCHIGH(F2) |  | O342 |  |  | ST | -2(P3) |  |
| 0286 | 9099 | X5A: | JMF' | $\times 5$ |  | 0344 | C3FF |  | LD | -1(P3) |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 0346 | F301 |  | ADD | ${ }_{1}$ (P3) |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 0348 | CBFF |  | ST | -1(P3) |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 034A | 90BE | X7: | JMP | X6A |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 034 C | C410 | SUB: | LDI | H(AESTK) | ; SET P3 TO CURRENT |
| 0288 |  |  | LDI | 14 |  | 034 E 034 F | 37 |  | ${ }_{\text {DPA }}^{\text {D }}$ | P3 LSTK(P2) | ; STACK LOCATION |
| 028 A | c.40E9099 | EREAS: | .JMP | ERR1 |  | 0351 | BAFD |  | DLD | LSTK(P2) |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | ; *** NEXT STATEMENT \#\#\# | 0353 | 33 |  | XPAL | P3 |  |
| 028 C | C2F4 | NXT: | LD | RUNMOD(P2) | ; IF IN IMMED. MODE, | 0354 | 03 |  | SCL |  |  |
| 028 E | 9822 |  | Jz | FIN | ; STOF EXECUTION | 0355 | C3FE |  | LD | -2(P3) | ; REPLACE TWO TOP ITEMS |
| 0290 | c100 |  | LD | (P1) | ; IF WE HIT END OF FILE, | 0357 | FBOO |  | CAD | 0(P3) | ; ON STACK BY THEIR DIFFERENC |
| 0292 | D480 |  | ANI | 080 | ; FINISH UP THINGS | 0359 | CBFE |  | ST | -2(P3) |  |
| 0294 | 9 Cl 10 |  | . NZ | FIN |  | 0358 | C3FF |  | LD | -1(P3) |  |
| 0296 | ${ }^{06}$ |  | CSA | 020 | ; BREAK IF SOMEONE IS | ${ }^{0350}$ | FRE1 |  | CAD ST | 1(P3) -1 (P3) |  |
| 0299 | geed |  | Jz | BREAK |  | 0361 | 9047 |  | JMP | $\times 6 A$ |  |
| 029B | C1FF |  | LD | $-1(\mathrm{P} 1)$ | ; GET LAST CHARACTER SCANNED |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 029 D | E40D |  | XRI | OD | ; WAS IT CARRIAGE RETURN? |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 029 F | $9 \mathrm{CO8}$ |  | . N Z | NXT1 | ; YES - SKIP FOLLOWING UPDATES |  |  | ;**** | ***** | ********* | *** |
| 02 A 1 | ${ }_{\text {C501 }}$ CAF7 |  | LD ST | e1(P1) <br> HIL INE (PZ) | ; GET HIGH BYTE OF NEXT LINE 畨 ; SAVE IT |  |  | ; * | N | ATE | * |
| 02 A 5 | C502 |  | LD | @2( $\mathrm{P}_{1}$ ) ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | ; GET LOW byte of line \#, SKIP |  |  |  | ******* | ********** | ***** |
| 02 A 7 | CAF8 |  | ST | LOLINE(P2) | ; LINE LENGTH BYTE | 0363 | C410 | NEG: | LDI | H(AESTK) | ; SET P3 TO CURRENT |
| 02 A 9 | c40c | NXT1: | LDI | ${ }_{\text {H }}$ (STMT) ${ }^{\text {PCHIGH(P2) }}$ | ; GO TO 'STMT' IN IL TAbLE | 0365 | 37 |  | XPAH | P3 | ; Stack location |
| ${ }_{0}^{02} \mathrm{OLB}$ | CAFA |  | $\stackrel{\text { ST }}{\text { LII }}$ | ${ }_{\text {PCHIGH (P2) }}^{\text {L(STMT) }}$ |  | 0366 0368 | ${ }_{33}^{\text {C2FD }}$ |  | LD | $\mathrm{LSTK}^{\text {LSTP2) }}$ |  |
| O2AF | CAFE |  | ST | PCLOW(P2) |  | $\stackrel{0368}{0368}$ | ${ }^{33}$ |  | SCL |  |  |
| 02B1 | $3 F$ |  | XPPC | P3 |  | 036 A | C400 |  | LDI | - |  |
| 02B2 |  |  |  |  | ;*** FINISH EXECUTION *** | 036 C | FBFE |  | CAD | -2(P3) | ; NEGATE TOP ITEM ON STACK |
| 0284 | CAF4 | FIN: | ST | RUNMOD(P2) | ; Clear run mode | $\bigcirc 0370$ | C400 |  | ${ }_{\text {LTI }}$ | $0_{0}^{-2(P 3)}$ |  |
| $02 \mathrm{B6}$ | C450 |  | LDI | L(AESTK) | ; CLEAR ARITHMETIC STACK | 0372 | FBFF |  | CAD | -1(P3) |  |
| 02 BE | CAFD |  | ST | LSTK ( $P 2$ 2) |  | 0374 | CBFF |  | ST | -1(P3) |  |
| O2BA | C418 |  | LDI | L(START) | ; SET IL PC to getting Lines | 0376 | 90 D 2 | x8: | JMP | $\times 7$ |  |
| O2BE | CAFB |  | LDI | PCLOW(P2) |  | 0378 | 9092 | E6: | JMP | E5 |  |
| 02 CO | CAFA |  | ST | PCHIGH(P2) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $02 \mathrm{C2}$ | c4ab |  | LDI | L(PCSTAK) |  |  |  | ; \#**** | ****** | ********** | **\#**** |
| 02 O 4 | CAFs |  | ST | PCSTK(P2) |  |  |  |  | MUL |  | * |
| 02 Cb | 9OBE |  | JMP | $\times 5 \mathrm{~A}$ |  |  |  | ; ***** | ******* | ********** | **** |
| $02 \mathrm{C8}$ | AAF4 | STRT: | ILD | RUNMOD(P2) | ;*** START EXECUTION *** ; RUN MODE = 1 |  |  |  | LOCAL |  |  |
| O2CA | C2E9 |  | LD | TEMF2(P2) | ; POINT CURSOR TO | 037 A | C410 | MUL: | LDI | H(AESTK) | ; SET P3 TO CURRENT |
| 02 CL | 35 |  | XPAH | $\mathrm{P}^{1} \mathrm{I}$ P(P3(P2) | ; Start of Nibl program | 0378 | 37 |  | XPAH |  | ; STACK LOCATION |
| $\bigcirc$ | C2Es |  | LD | TEMP3(P2) |  | 037 D | C2FD |  | LD | LSTK(P2) |  |
| O2DO | C4bA |  | ${ }_{\text {LDI }}$ | L(SBRSTK) | ; EMPTY SOME STACKS: | $\stackrel{10375}{038}$ | ${ }_{\text {C3F }}$ |  | ${ }_{\text {KPAL }}$ | P3 ${ }_{-1 \text { (P3) }}$ | ; DETERMINE SIGN OF PRODUCT, <br> ; SAVE IN TEMP(P2) |
| 02 D 2 | CAFC |  | ST | SBRPTR(P2) | ; gosub stack, | 0382 | E3FD |  | XOR | -3(P3) |  |
| 02 D 4 | C48A |  | LDI | L(FORSTK) |  | 0384 | CAEA |  | ST | TEMP(P2) |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 0206 \\ & 0208 \end{aligned}$ | CAFE |  | $\stackrel{\text { ST }}{\text { LDI }}$ | FORPTR(P2) | ; FOR STACK | 0386 0388 | C3FF 9400 |  | LD | ${ }_{\$ 1}^{-1(P 3)}$ | ; CHECK FOR NEGATIVE |
| 02DA | CAFF |  | ST | DOPTR(P2) | ; \& DO/UNTIL STACK | $\bigcirc 38 \mathrm{~A}$ | 03 |  | SCL |  | ; Multiplier |
| O2DC | 3 F |  | XPPC | P3 | ; RETURN | 038 B | C400 |  | LDI | $\bigcirc$ | ; if negative, |
| O2DF | 9049 | E4: | .JMP | E3A |  | 038 D | FBFE |  | CAD | $-2(\mathrm{P} 3)$ | ; NEGATE |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 038 F | CBFE |  | ST | -2(P3) |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 0391 | C400 |  | LDI | $\bigcirc$ |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 0393 0395 | ${ }^{\text {FBFF }}$ CEFF |  | ${ }_{\text {cta }}$ | $-1(\mathrm{P} 3)$ $-1(\mathrm{P} 3)$ |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | * |  | C3FD | \$1: | ${ }_{\text {LD }}^{\text {LD }}$ | -3(P3) |  |
|  |  |  |  | *********** | ****** | $\begin{aligned} & 0399 \\ & 039 \mathrm{~B} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 940 \mathrm{D} \\ & 03 \end{aligned}$ |  | JP SCL |  | ; MULTIPLICAND |
| 02 E 1 | C100 | Lst: | LD | (P1) | ; CHECK FOR END Of File | 039 C | C400 |  | LDI |  | ; if negative, |
| O2E3 | E480 |  | XRI | 080 |  | 039 E | FBFC |  | ${ }_{\text {CT }}$ CA | $-4(\mathrm{P} 3)$ $-4(\mathrm{P} 3)$ | ; NEGATE |
| 02 O 5 | 9418 |  | JP | LST2 |  | $\bigcirc 3 \mathrm{O}$ | CBFC |  | ST | -4(P3) |  |
| O2E7 | ${ }_{37}^{C 410}$ |  | ${ }_{\text {XPAH }}^{\text {LDI }}$ | ${ }_{\text {P3 }}{ }^{\text {(AESTK }}$ ) | ; GET LINE NUMBER ONTO STACK | -03A2 | ${ }_{\text {CBFD }}$ |  | LDI | ${ }_{-3}^{0}$ (P3) |  |
| O2EA | AAFD |  | ILD | LSTK(P2) |  | O3A6 | CBFD |  | ST | -3(P3) |  |
| O2EC | AAFD |  | ILD | LSTK. (P2) |  | $\bigcirc 348$ | C400 | \$2: | LDI | $\bigcirc$ | ; CLEAR WORKSPACE |
| O2EE | 33 |  | XPAL | P3 |  | O3AA | CBOO |  | ST | 0 (P3) |  |
| 02 OFF | ${ }^{\text {c501 }}$ |  | LD | e1(P1) |  | $\bigcirc 3 \mathrm{AC}$ | $\mathrm{CBO}^{\text {cre }}$ |  | ST | 1(P3) |  |
| ${ }_{0} 92 \mathrm{~F} 2 \mathrm{~F} 3$ | CEFF |  | ST LD | -1(P3) |  | ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{O3AE}$ | CBO2 |  | ST ST | $2(P 3)$ $3(\mathrm{P} 3)$ |  |
| 02 F 5 | CBFE |  | ST | -2(P3) |  | 03B2 | C410 |  | Lid | 16 | ; SET COUNTER TO 16 |
|  | ${ }_{\text {c }} \mathrm{C5O1}$ |  | LD | ${ }_{1}^{1(P 1)}$ | ; SKip over line length | 0384 | ${ }_{\text {CAEB }}$ |  | ST | $\mathrm{NUM}_{-1 \mathrm{P} 2)}$ |  |
| ${ }_{0}^{02 F 9}$ | C4F1 |  | ${ }_{\text {STI }}^{\text {LDI }}$ | $1{ }_{\text {LIStNG( }}$ ( 2 ) |  | O3B6 | ${ }_{15}^{\text {C3FF }}$ | \$LOOP: | LD | -1(P3) | ; ROTATE MULTIPLIER |
| 02 FD | 90DE |  | JMP | $\mathrm{X}_{6}{ }^{\text {c }}$ | ; GO PRINT LINE NUMBER | 03 O 9 | CbFF |  | ST | -1(P3) |  |
| 02 FF | C400 | LSTZ: | LDI | 0 |  | 03 BB | C3FE |  | LD | -2(P3) |  |
| 0301 0303 | CAF5 |  | ST | LISTNG(PZ) | ; CLEAR Listing flag | ${ }^{0} 3$ 3BD | 1 F |  | RRL |  |  |
| 0303 0304 | c402 9001 |  | JMP | ${ }^{\text {P3, }} \times 1 \times 1$ | ; GO TO NXT | ${ }^{0} \mathrm{O3BE}$ | ${ }_{06}^{\text {CBFE }}$ |  | ST CSA | -2(P3) | ; CHECK FOR CARRY BIT |
| 030 C | 9001 | X6A: E5: LST3: LST4: | JMP | E4 |  | 03 C 1 | 9411 |  | JP | \$3 | ; IF NOT SET, DON'T DO ADD |
| 030 E |  |  | LEPI | P3, PUTC-1 | ; POINT P3 AT PUTC | $\bigcirc 3 \mathrm{C} 3$ | 02 |  | ccL |  |  |
| 0314 | Of D420 |  | CSA |  |  | ${ }_{0}^{03 \mathrm{O} 4}$ | ${ }_{\text {c }}^{\text {C3O2 }}$ |  | LD | 2 (P3) | ; ADD MULTIPLICAND |
| 0315 | ${ }_{\text {D420 }}$ | LST4: | ANI | 020 |  | $03 C 6$ | F3FC |  | ${ }^{\text {AD }}$ | -4(P3) | ; INTO WORKSPACE |
| 0319 | ${ }^{\text {c }}$ C00 1 |  | Lin | ${ }_{\text {el }}$ | ; IF TYPING, STOP | $\bigcirc$ | ${ }_{\text {C302 }}$ |  | $\stackrel{\text { ST }}{\text { LD }}$ | $2(P 3)$ $3(P 3)$ |  |
| 0318 | E40D |  | XRI | OD | ; TEST FOR CR | 03 CC | F3FD |  | ADD | -3(P3) |  |
| 031 D | 9805 |  | Jz | LSTS |  | 03 CE | CBO3 |  | ST | 3(P3) |  |
| ${ }_{0}^{031 \mathrm{~F}}$ | ${ }_{3 F}^{\text {E40 }}$ | i | ${ }_{\text {XRI }}^{\text {XPFC }}$ | ${ }_{\text {O }}^{\text {P }}$ | ; GET CHARACTER | O3D0 | 9002 9044 |  | JMP | $\$ 3$ E6 |  |
| 0322 | ${ }_{\text {SOFO }}$ |  | ${ }_{\text {XPPC }}$ | ${ }_{\text {P3 }}^{\text {LST4 }}$ | ; PRINT CHARACTER | 03 D 4 | ${ }_{\text {O2 }}$ | \$3: | cci |  |  |
| 0324 | C40D | LSTS: | LDI | OD | ; CARRIAGE RETURN | ${ }_{0}^{03 D 5}$ | ${ }_{1 \mathrm{C}}^{\mathrm{C}} \mathrm{C}$ |  | LD | $3(\mathrm{P} 3)$ | ; SHIFT WORKSPACE RIGHT BY 1 |
| 0326 | 3 F |  | XPPC | P3 |  |  |  |  | $\stackrel{\text { RRL }}{ }$ |  |  |
| 0327 | C40A |  | LDI | OA | ; Line feed | $\begin{aligned} & \text { O3D8 } \\ & \text { 03DA } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{CBO} \\ & \mathrm{CBO} \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ST } \\ & \text { LD } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3(P 3) \\ & 2(P 3) \end{aligned}$ |  |


$0410 C 410$. 041237 0413 C2FD 0415 C3F
0416 C3FF 0418 DBFE 041 A 9C04 041 C C40D 41 E $90 B 2$ 0420 C3FD 0424 CAEA 0426 C3FD
04289411 42A 9400 042 C 03 042 D FBFC 042 F CBO 0431 C400 433 FBFD 435 CBO2 0437900 A
043990 BA $43 B$ C3FD 043 D
043 CBO
CBFC 043 F CBFC 441 CBO3 0443 C3FF
04459400 0447 C400 $0449 \quad 03$ 044A FBFE 044C CBFE 044E C400 0450 FBFF 452 CBFF 454 C400 0458 CBOO $45^{2}$ CBOO $45 A$
CAEB
CBFD $45 E$ CBFD 046002 0461 C3FC 0465 CBFC 0467 C3FD 0469 F3FD 046 B CBFD 46D 02
O46E C303 $\begin{array}{ll}0470 & \text { F303 } \\ 0472 & \text { CBO3 } \\ 0474 & \text { C302 }\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{ll}0474 & \text { C302 } \\ 0476 & \text { F302 }\end{array}$ 0476 CBO2
0478 CBO2 047A C 301 047 C F301 047E CBO1
0480 C300 0480 C300
0482 F300 0482 F300 0484 CBOO 48603
489 FBFE 048B CBO1 048 F C300 0491 CBOO 04939411
049502 049502 0496 C301 0498 F3FE 049A CBO1 049C C300 449E F3FF 4AO CBOO $04 A 29008$
$04 A 49093$ 04A6 C3FC 04AB DCO1 O4AC CBFC O4AE E410 O4BO 9CAE

|  | RRL |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | ST | 2(P3) |  |
|  | LD | 1 (P3) |  |
|  | RRL |  |  |
|  | ST | 1 (P3) |  |
|  | LD | O(P3) |  |
|  | RRL |  |  |
|  | ST | O(P3) |  |
|  | DLD | NUM(P2) | ; DECREMENT COUNTER |
|  | JNZ | \$LOOP | ; LOOP IF NOT ZERO |
|  | JMP | \$4 |  |
| X9: | JMP | X8 |  |
| \$4: | LD | TEMP (P2) | ; CHECK SIGN WORD |
|  | JP | \$EXIT | ; IF BIT7 = 1, NEGATE PRODUCT |
|  | SCL |  |  |
|  | LDI | 0 |  |
|  | CAD | O(P3) |  |
|  | ST | $0(P 3)$ |  |
|  | LDI | - |  |
|  | CAD | 1 (P3) |  |
|  | ST | 1 (P3) |  |
| \$EXIT: | LD | 0(P3) | ; PUT PRODUCT ON TOP |
|  | ST | -4(P3) | ; OF STACK |
|  | LD | 1 (P3) |  |
|  | ST | -3(P3) |  |
|  | DLD | LSTK(P2) | ; SUBTRACT 2 FROM |
|  | DLD | LSTK(P2) | ; LSTK. |
|  | JMP | X9 |  |


| $04 B 2$ | $C 2 E A$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| $04 B 4$ | $940 D$ |
| $04 B 6$ | $C 400$ |
| $04 B 8$ | 03 |
| $04 B 9$ | FBFC |
| $04 B B$ | $C B F C$ |
| $04 B D D$ | C4OO |
| $04 B F$ | FBFD |
| $04 C 1$ | CBFD |
| $04 C 3$ | BAFD |
| $04 C 5$ | BAFD |
| $04 C 7$ | $90 D B$ |

$04 C 9$ C410 O4CB 37 O4CE 33 O4CF C7FD
O4D 1.01 $\begin{array}{ll}\text { O4D2 } & \text { C301 } \\ \text { O4D4 } & \text { CABO }\end{array}$ O4D6 02
O4D7 40 $04 D 8$ F401 O4DA 01
O4DB C302 O4DB C302
04DD CA80 O4DF 33
O4EO CAFD DIV:

O4B2 C2EA O4B4 940D 04B6 C400 O4B8 03 $04 B 9$ FBFC O4BD E400 04 BF FBFD 04 CS BAFD 90DB

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { LOCAL } \\
& \text { LDI } \\
& \text { XPAH }
\end{aligned}
$$ O4E9 C501 O4EB E420

O4ED 98FA O4EF C1FF



0534 C410
IND:

053637
0537 AAFD
053933
$053 A$
C3FE
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { 053 } & 01 \\ \text { 053D } & \text { C280 }\end{array}$
053D C280
$053 F$ CBFE 0541
0542
020
$\begin{array}{ll}0542 & 40 \\ 0543 \\ 0545\end{array}$
0545 C280 054A 9096 04F 103 $\begin{array}{ll}04 F 2 & \text { FC5B } \\ 04 F 4 & 9405 \\ 04 F 6\end{array}$ $04 F 603$
$04 F 7$ FCE 6 O4F7 FCE 04 FF 9412
O4FB CSFF
$04 F D$ C2FB O4FF 33
0500 C 2 FA $0500 \mathrm{C2FA}$
050237
0503 C 300 0503 C300
0505 CAFA 0507 C301
\$1:
\$2:
\$LOOP:




082 C
082 ClF
082 Cl
0
$082 E$ C2F
0830 33
0831 C2F
0831 C2FO
$\begin{array}{ll}0833 & 37 \\ 0834 & \mathrm{C} 40 \\ 0836\end{array}$
0836 CAE7
0838 C701
083A E40D

$083 E$ AAE
0840 90F6
0844 E40 $08469 C 02$ 0848 CAE 084A C2E

| $084 D$ |
| :--- |
| $084 F$ |
| 0402 |
| 0851 |
| $95 F$ | 0851 DA 7 F 08559018

$0857 \mathrm{C503}$
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085 A 02 0860 E40 $\begin{array}{ll}0864 \\ 0865 & 02\end{array}$ 088
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086 F 40 0870 DAE
 0874 CATA
0876 CAFF 0878 CA6 808
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38

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0889 0.0
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 0891 | 80 |
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 089 B
C9F
089D
C450 089 D C450
089 F
C9FF

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0 $\begin{array}{ll}08 B F & C 400 \\ 08 C 1 & 01\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{ll}08 C 2 \\ 084 & C 98 \\ 080\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{ll}08 C 4 & C 980 \\ 08 C 6 & C 5 F F\end{array}$ 08C8
08CA
OBCC E45
O8CE 980
$08 D 0$ $08 D 0$ C100
08D2 $90 F 0$ O8D2 90 C2F
 08D8 C4.OD O8DC 40 $\circ$
0
0
0
5
0
0
0


 M OBEF 33 $08 F 237$ 08F3 C2F 08F7 C2F O8FS CFO1 $08 F D$ CFO1
08FF C501 0901 CFO1 0903 E4OD


$$
\text { BF DISPLACEMENT }=0 \text {, WE'RE }
$$




09059078
09079000 0909 C400 0910 90CF

$\begin{array}{ll}0917 & C 410 \\ 0918 & 37\end{array}$ 091 C C300 0912
$091 E$
CAEF 0822 goes

0924 C2FF $0926 \quad 01$ 092740 0928 E47A
$092 A$ 9004 092 C CAOF
092 SOEO O92E 90EO 0932 DAEE 09349806 0936 BMFF 0938 ロAFF
$093 A$ 90CD $093 A$
$093 C$
0930
093 $093 E$ C410 0940 37 94335 094631 09479000

989 caes $094 B$ D4F O94D 07
$098 E$
OOE 0950 90BE

0952 ca10 095437 0955 AAFD 095933
0951
06 0958 CEFE 0950 C.OO
$095 F$ CBFF
0961 90EE

$$
0963 \text { C2EE }
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 096537 \\
& 0980 \text { czeF }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
0968 \quad 33 \\
0969 \mathrm{C} 7 \mathrm{FF}
\end{array}
$$

$$
696 \mathrm{~B} \text { 3F }
$$

$$
0972 \text { 9000 }
$$



: HACHINE LANGUAGE SUBROUTINE
; THIS ROUTINE IMPl_EMENTS THE 'LIMK' STATEMENT


; SAUE DO LOOP ADDRESS
; THIS ROUTINE IMPLEHENTS THE 'DO' STATEMENT

SAVEDO:

| L. 1 | DOPTR(F2) |
| :---: | :---: |
| XRI | L(FORSTK) |
| Jnz | $\$ 1$ |
| LII | 10 |
| Mp | E14 |
| L.D | DOPTR(P2) |
| ILD | DOPTR(F2) |
| XPAL | P3 |
| LDI | H(COSTAK) |
| XPAH | P'S |
| XPAH | P1 |
| ST | -1(F3) |
| XPAH | P1 |
| XPAL | P1 |
| ST | -2(ア3) |
| XPAL | F1 |

$\times 20: \quad$ UMP
\$ADD1
$\times 19 A$
P3. EXECIL
RETURM


| POPAE: | DLD | LSTK(P2) | ; ThIS ROUTENE POP THE A.E. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | DLD | LSTK(P2) | ; STACK, find puts ThE RESULT |
|  | XPAL | P3 | IHYO LO(P2) AND HI (P2) |
|  | LDI | H(AESTK) |  |
|  | XPAH | P3 |  |
|  | LD | (P3) |  |
|  | ST | LO(P2) |  |
|  | LD | 1 (P3) |  |
|  | ST | HI (P2) |  |
|  | UMP | $\times 20$ |  |




STAT FUNCTION

## 

E1E: NWZ L!
IL
; CHECK FOR STACK OVERFLOW
; PS
; SAV C TOP OF DO STACK
ON THE STACK





| FAILLO | FFED | FALse | 05c8 | FIN | 02B2 | FNDLBL | OBDE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FNDPGE | OB94 | FOR | OD26 | FOR1 | OD46 | FOR2 | OD48 |
| FORPTR | FFFE | FORSTK | 108A | GECO | OF73 | GEQ | 0560 |
| GEQ1 | O5BE | GETL | 0753 | 601 | OCF2 | GOSUB | OCE7 |
| GOTO | 0CD9 | GTR | 055c | GTR1 | 05B3 | GTROP | OESB |
| HEX | 0654 | HI | FFEE | HILINE | FFF7 | IF | OCA6 |
| IF 1 | OCB2 | IGNORE | 09B5 | ILC1 | OOAA | ILCALL | OOAO |
| IN1 | ODDE | IN2 | ODF2 | IN3 | OEO1 | IND | 0534 |
| INPUT | ODCD | INSRT | 0820 | ISTRNG | OB22 | JMPBIT | 0040 |
| LABLHI | FFF2 | LABLLO | FFF3 | LBUF | 10D6 | LEQ | 0558 |
| LEQ1 | DSAA | LET | 0c87 | LIST | 0C31 | LIST1 | OC43 |
| LIST2 | OC45 | LIST3 | $0 \mathrm{C47}$ | LISTNG | FFFS | LIT1 | OA30 |
| LO | FFEF | LOLINE | FFF8 | LSS | 0554 | LSS1 | 05A2 |
| LST | O2E1 | LST2 | O2FF | LST3 | O30E | LST4 | 0314 |
| LST5 | 0324 | LSTK | FFFD | MESGS | 0F37 | ML | OEOE |
| MODULO | O9BC | MOVE | 0804 | MOVESR | 0949 | MOUSTR | OB52 |
| MUL | 037A | NEG | 0363 | NEQ | 0550 | NEQ1 | 0599 |
| NEW | 0669 | NEW1 | OC76 | NEWPGM | OBCD | NEXT | ODOC |
| NEXTV | OAB5 | NEXTV1 | OAEA | NLINE | 0215 | NO．JUMP | 009D |
| NOTOP | 05F8 | NUM | FFEB | NUPAGE | OB89 | NXT | 028C |
| NXT1 | O2A9 | OROP | 05F4 | P1 | D001 | PiHIGH | FFFO |
| P1LOW | FFF 1 | P2 | 0002 | P3 | 0003 | PAGE | FFF6 |
| PCHIGH | FFFA | PCLOW | FFFB | PCSTAK | 10A6 | PCSTK | FFF9 |
| PGE | OD63 | PGM | 1120 | POPAE | 0912 | PR1 | ODA3 |
| PR2 | ODAA | PR3 | ODB9 | PR4 | ODC2 | PR5 | ODC7 |
| PRS | ODC9 | PRINT | OD9A | PRMPT 1 | OC21 | PRN | 0197 |
| PRN1 | O1CE | PRNUM | OF2E | PRNUM1 | OF2F | PROMPT | OC1A |
| PRS | 017E | PRS1 | 0193 | PSTRNG | OBO6 | PUTC | OFBE |
| PUTCI | OFCB | PUTC2 | OFE3 | PUTPGE | OB77 | PUTSTR | OB32 |
| RANDOM | 09CE | REL1 | OE3A | REL2 | OE44 | REL3 | OE4B |
| REL4 | OE4F | RELS | OE59 | RELEXP | OE31 | REM | OE22 |
| RETEXP | OE87 | RETURN | OCFC | RNDF | FFE6 | RNDX | FFES |
| RNDY | FFE4 | RSTR | 0148 | RSTR1 | 0152 | RSTR2 | 0167 |
| RTN | OOFB | RUN | OC4D | RUNMOD | FFF4 | SAV | 010F |
| SAV1 | 012B | SAV2 | 0131 | Savedo | 0974 | SAVFOR | OA42 |
| SBRPTR | FFFC | SBRSTK | 106A | SETZ | 058D | START | 0 C 18 |
| STAT | 0050 | Status | 0952 | STMT | 0C82 | store | 04C9 |
| STRT | 02 C 8 | SUB | 034 C | SYNTAX | OE2B | T1 | OE8B |
| T2 | 0E94 | T3 | OE9D | TEMP | FFEA | TEMP2 | FFE9 |
| TEMP3 | FFE8 | TERM | 0E89 | TOP | 0990 | TST | OOC5 |
| TSTBIT． | 0020 | TSTNUM | D6B4 | tstuar | 04E9 | UNT | OCB8 |
| UNTIL | 0924 | VARS | 101C | x0 | OOEC | X1 | 0165 |
| $\times 10$ | 04E2 | $\times 11$ | 054A | $\times 12$ | 0597 | $\times 12 \mathrm{~A}$ | O5EE |
| $X 12 \mathrm{~B}$ | 0637 | $\times 120$ | D67A | $\times 13$ | O6E3 | $\times 14$ | 0751 |
| $\times 15$ | O7B4 | $\times 16$ | 07E4 | $\times 17$ | 081 C | X19 | 086B |
| X19A | OBE5 | $\times 20$ | 0909 | $\times 21$ | 094E | $\times 22$ | 098E |
| X23 | OSCA | $\times 24$ | OA2C | $\times 25$ | OA83 | $\times 26$ | OAE8 |
| $\times 27$ | OE30 | $\times 4$ | 01CA | X5 | 0221 | X5A | 0286 |
| X6 | O2DD | X6A | O30A | $\times 7$ | 034A | $\times 8$ | 0376 |
| X9 | O3EF | X 9 A | 04：39 | X9B | 04A4 | XCHGP1 | 0639 |
| XFER | 0171 | XFER1 | 0179 | z20001 | 101C | zzoooz | 1120 |
| Z2000：3 | OFBD | 2Z0004 | OFBD | z20005 | OFBD | 220006 | OFBD |
| 220007 | OF37 | Z20008 | DF37 | z20009 | OFBD | ZZ000A | 10D6 |
| 220008 | OFBD | z2000c | 101C | ZZOOOD | OFBD | zZOOOE | 0002 |
| z2000F | 0002 | Z20010 | 0006 | z20011 | 0002 | 220012 | 0003 |
| 220013 | 0002 | Z20014 | 0002 | zzools | 0002 | zZ0016 | 0002 |
| 220017 | 0005 | 220018 | 0004 | z20019 | 0002 | zZ001A | 0007 |
| z2001B | 0004 | Zz001C | 0004 | 2z0010 | 0003 | ZZ001E | 0002 |
| z2001F | 0006 | z20020 | 0005 | 220021 | 0002 | 220022 | 0003 |
| 220023 | 0006 | 220024 | 0005 | z20025 | 0002 | 220026 | 0003 |
| z20027 | 0005 | z20028 | 0002 | z20029 | 0002 | ZZ002A | 0005 |
| 2Z002B | 0003 | zz002C | 0003 | z2002D | 0007 | ZZ002E | 0003 |
| z2002F | 0004 | z20030 | 0003 | 220031 | 0002 | 220032 | 0005 |
| 220033 | 0002 | z20034 | 0003 | 2z0035 | 0002 | 220036 | 0003 |
| 220037 | 0003 | z20038 | 0002 | zZ0039 | 0006 | 2Z003A | 0003 |
| Z2003B | 0003 | 220036 | 0007 | z2003D | 0003 | ZZ003E | 0002 |
| Z2003F | 0002 | Z20040 | 0002 | z20041 | 0002 | Z20042 | 0002 |
| Z20043 | 0002 | Z20044 | 0002 | zZ0045 | 0002 | 2Z0046 | 0002 |
| Z20047 | 0002 | z20048 | 0002 | z20049 | 0002 | Z2004A | 0002 |
| z2004B | 0002 | Z2004C | 0002 | Z2004D | 0002 | Z2004E | 0003 |
| Z2004F | 0002 | zz0050 | D003 | 720051 | 0002 | 2z0052 | 0003 |
| 220053 | 0003 | zz0054 | 0003 | 220055 | 0004 | z20056 | 0004 |
| 220057 | 0008 | 2z0058 | 0003 | z20059 | 0002 | zzoosA | 0003 |
| $22005 B$ | 0005 | \＄0 | 002A | \＄0 | 0420 | \＄0 | 076F |
| \＄0 | 0996 | \＄0 | OB91 | \＄1 | 0043 | \＄1 | 01c6 |
| \＄1 | 023D | \＄1 | 0397 | \＄1 | 0443 | \＄1 | O5FA |
| \＄1 | 06E7 | \＄1 | 0772 | \＄1 | 0838 | \＄1 | 0930 |
| \＄1 | 097E | \＄1 | 0990 | \＄1 | 09FD | \＄1 | OA4C |
| \＄1 | OABF | \＄1 | OB12 | \＄1 | OB46 | \＄1 | OBA3 |
| \＄1 | OBE4 | \＄1 | OF7B | \＄10 | OAA9 | \＄2 | 01FF |
| \＄2 | O25A | \＄2 | 03 AB | \＄2 | 0454 | \＄2 | 0707 |
| \＄2 | 07B2＊ | \＄2 | 0842 | \＄2 | 09A3 | \＄2 | OADD |
| \＄2 | OB28 | \＄2 | OBFC | \＄2 | OF8F | \＄3 | 0261 |
| \＄3 | 03 D 4 | \＄3 | 04AC | \＄3 | 084A | \＄3 | OADF |
| \＄3 | OC11 | \＄3 | OF9C | \＄4 | 03F1 | \＄4 | 0857 |
| \＄4 | OFAO | \＄5 | 085E | \＄ABOR | 06C6 | \＄ADD | 0853 |
| \＄ADD1 | 08FF | SCALB | 8000 | \＄CR | $07 \mathrm{D8}$ | \＄DOWN | 0885 |
| \＄END | $04 \mathrm{C3}$ | \＄END | 06AC | \＄END | OB4C | \＄ENT 1 | O4A6 |
| \＄ENTE | 0683 | \＄ENTE | 07B6 | \＄EXIT | 0402 | \＄FAIL | 04FB |
| \＄．JMPB | 4000 | \＄LETR | 067 C | \＄LOOP | 002 C | \＄LOOP | OODB |
| \＄LOOP | 0203 | \＄LOOP | 0241 | \＄LOOP | 03B6 | \＄LOOP | 0460 |
| \＄LOOP | 066C | \＄LOOP | 06F7 | \＄LOOP | 09D9 | \＄LOOP | OAD1 |
| \＄Loop | OB38 | \＄LOOP | OB68 | \＄LOOP | OBAA | SMAYB | 050D |
| \＄MOVE | 086F | \＄MSG | 0247 | \＄NEQ | ooee | \＄NOT | 0628 |
| \＄0K | 0．51A | \＄0K | 0688 | \＄0R | 0616 | \＄POS | O43B |
| \＄PRNT | O1EF | \＄REDO | 0936 | \＄REDO | OAF＇ | \＄RET | 06D6 |
| \＄RUB | O7CE | \＄SCAN | 00C7 | \＄SHIF | 0692 | \＄SHIF | 0714 |
| \＄SKIP | 0664 | \＄TSTE | 2000 | \＄up | 0895 | \＄UP1 | 08A1 |
| \＄UP2 | 08 C 2 | \＄UP3 | 08C4 | \＄UP4 | 08D4 | \＄XH | 07C8 |

NOU ERROR LINES OURCE CHECKSUM $=33 F E$

## IN－GROUP HUMOR FOR DINOSAUR USERS

We recently heard of some new instructions proposed for some of the maxi computers of industry and business：

## BRANCH \＆BOMB <br> BRANCH \＆HANG

PUNCH OPERATOR
BACKSPACE \＆EJECT DISC
BACKSPACE \＆PUNCH DISC
Oh well；we said it was in－group humor．

## 6502 STRING OUTPUT，REVISITED

Dear Mr．Warren，
Oct．6， 1976
In $D D J$ ，Vol．1，No． 8 （p．33），Mr．Espinosa proposed the exchange of＂handy＂subroutines to save bytes in space－ limited systems．He also presented an example，an ASCII string output subroutine for the 6502 microprocessor．I would like to submit a revised version of Mr．Espinosa＇s sub－ routine．I have done extensive work on 6502＇s with OSI＇s Model 400 microcomputer．During this time I have learned several byte saving programming＂tricks＂which I would like to pass on by illustration．Through a few simple changes I was able to reduce the length from 40 to 2B（hex）bytes．
The result is a subroutine which works the same and saves a few more bytes．The program demonstrates a few simple ＂tricks＂：
－Preservation of the Y index register on the stack（3 bytes saved）
－Replace JMP instruction（with ranges less than 128 bt bytes）with forced relative branches．This permits easier relocation of a generalized subroutine so it may be used elsewhere in memory．
－Make use of TYA instruction rather than saving the Y index in a memory location and then adding it in later （5 bytes saved）．
－Test the carry flag condition and increment the high order byte if set rather than adding 00 （ 2 bytes saved）．
－Try to avoid dead space inside programs，and non－sero page data storage（i．e．locations 0433 to 043 F ）（ 12 bytes saved）．

Sincereiy， Marcel Meier 8850 S．Spring Valley Dr． Chagrin Falls，OH 44022
SIHTNBMIT：FHVIEFת UFREION URTVINAI FYY F：FSFINREA FFUTEUNN FFY M．MFJFK 10／517\％

|  | GRTi | \＄400 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| AKFFF＇ | ＋龺！ | \＄4\％A |
| IIIIT | Fonl | gFFFF |
| 10 | FD日 1 | \＄FF |
| HT | FOU1 | \＄FF |
| 10 | $\Gamma 1 F \%$ |  |
| HJ | r｜F7 |  |


| 0400 | 811 | 7 A | 04 | Hthin | EiA | AKFFF | GAVF Al： |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0903 | 4 |  |  |  | Fil |  | GFT RFIURN ATHMFSE |
| $\bigcirc 0404$ | 3t | FF |  |  | SiA | 10 |  |
| 0406 | 69 |  |  |  | Fi．A |  |  |
| 0407 | 0 | FF |  |  | STA | HT |  |
| 0409 | \％ |  |  |  | IYA |  | PIIT Y INTHX IN STAI：K |
| 140 A | 48 |  |  |  | FHA |  |  |
| 940 E | AO | 01 |  |  | 1 गY | \＃01 | SFT IFP INTIFX FOTNTFR |
| 01400 | Ha | FF |  | NFXT | 1 गA | （1，5），Y | GFT NFX 7 CHAFAI：TFR |
| 940 F | FO | 07 |  |  | HFO | EXIT | TINF JF NIII I CHARAITFF |
| 01419 | 0 |  |  |  | INY |  |  |
| 0412 | 20 | FF | FF |  | 15R | nut | OUITFUT CHARAITTFR |
| 014.5 | 16 |  |  |  | C10： |  | FGREFH I OTIF WTith |
| 0416 | 90 | F5 |  |  | Fic： | NFXT | A RFI ATIUF FFAANL：H |
| 0418 | 96 |  |  | FXIT | TYA |  | CiFT STRTNIG I FNETH |
| 0449 | 36 |  |  |  | SFC： |  |  |
| 641 A | 60， | FF |  |  | AगIT： | 10 | AMJ RFTURN AMIRFGS TIC |
| Qリ5 | 82 | FF． |  |  | STA | 10 | OFFSFT |
| $9495$ | $90$ | $\frac{\partial \%}{F F}$ |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { FCG: } \\ & \text { TNIT: } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { NHI:AR } \\ & \text { HT } \end{aligned}$ | JF CAFRY，SNT：FFMFNT HJ |
| 0492 | 6－： |  |  | NOTC：AF： | FIA |  | FFFORE Y FROM STALK |
| $04 \%$ | $A \%$ |  |  |  | TAY |  |  |
| 0474 | All | ZA | 04 |  | 1 IM | AKFFF＇ | FFETORF AT： |
| $04 \% 7$ | $\therefore 0$ | FF． | 00 |  | ，MF | （10） | FFTURN 「IT INSTRIIITION AFTFR |

## TSC LIVES！THEY DO HAVE A PHONE NUMBER

Technical Systems Consultants，Box 2574，West Lafayette， IN 47906，peddles some interesting，low－cost micro software． Several people have asked us if TSC is OK to diel with，stat－ ing that they were unable to locate a phone number or street address．We wish to emphatically state that they are real； they are reputable；and they do have a phone：（317）742． 7509.

## UPGRADED CP/M FLOPPY DISC OPERATING SYSTEM NOW AV AILABLE

$\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ is a disk operating system designed for diskette-based computer systems which use the Intel 8080 microcomputer. The $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ software package is now being offered to the small computer user community.

Previously available only to OEM's, CP/M has been in existence for over two years in various manufacturers' products, and thus has had extensive field testing. $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ functions include file management, with console interaction, batch processing, and program loading facilities. The overall operation of CP/M closely resembles the standard features of the DEC System-10. In particular, CP/M components include:

BDOS - the CP/M Basic Disk Operating System supports a named file system, with up to 64 distinct files on each diskette. Files storage is dynamically allocated and released as necessary, with algorithms for optimal read/write head movement. Any file can contain as few as zero bytes, and up to 250 K bytes, depending upon the requirements of the user program. Sequential and random access are supported.

CCP - the Console Command Processor interacts with the programmer's console, providing the basic commands:

DIR selectively search the disk directory for files
TYPE type the contents of a file at the console
REN rename a specific file to a different name
ERA erase a given file or set of files from the disk
SAVE save memory on the disk for later reload or test The CCP also supports automatic program load and execution of CP/M system programs as well as user programs.

PIP - the CP/M Peripheral Interchange Program allows transfer of files between various devices and disk files, as well as concatenation of files on the diskettes.

SUBMIT - the batch processing features of CP/M allow the operator to prepare command files with parametric substitution, which can be subsequently automatically executed if typed by the operator.

ED - the CP/M editor allows preparation of programs and text using powerful context editing and display commands.

ASM - the CP/M assembler is compatible with both the standard Intel assembler and Processor Technology assembly language.

DDT - the CP/M Debugging Tool is a monitor which allows symbolic program tracing, debugging, and testing.

LOAD - the loader prepared a "memory image" file from an Intel format "hex" file, ready for direct execution under CP/M.

DUMP - the dump utility prints the contents of a CP/M file in hexadecimal at the user's console.

SYSGEN - the system generation utility prints the contents of a $C P / M$ system diskettes from existing diskettes for back-up purposes.

The CP/M operating system is distributed for an Intel MDS microcomputer development system, but can be easily altered to operate with a wide variety of customized hardware environments. Basic requirements are:
a) Intel 8080 - based microcomputer mainframe
b) At least 16 K of read/write main memory
c) One or two IBM-compatible disk drives and controller

Given these facilities, the CP/M disk system is "patched" by the user to communicate with the specialized hardware. The exact steps to follow in programming and patching the $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ system are given in the manual CP/M System Alteration Guide. In fact, several popular mainframe and controller manufacturers currently support their own $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ patch.

The CP/M system is distributed on an IBM-compatible diskette in machine-code form only (source programs are available for internal use, or distribution with custom hardware at additional cost), along with complete documentation required for operating $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ and programming in the $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ environment. The software is licensed for use by the individual who purchases $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$, and is registered and serialized to prevent unauthorized copying and distribution. In particular, the licensing agreement specifically disallows copying CP/M for use by any individual other than the registered owner. The registered owner of a CP/M system receives notices of updates and becomes a member of the CP/M User's Library. System documentation includes:
$C P / M$ Features and Facilities - this manual presents the organization of the $C P / M$ system, along with the forms for file name references,
built-in commands and transient commands, including operation of the editor, assembler, debugger, peripheral interchange program, and batch processor.
$C P / M$ Editor, $C P / M$ Assembler and $C P / M$ Debugger Manuals these three manuals provide the operating details for CP/M's principal subsystems for program composition (ED), assembly (ASM), and testing (DDT). Manuals can be purchased separately.
$C P / M$ Interface Guide - this manual gives the exact details for programming in the CP/M environment. In particular, all system calls are specified, along with details of CP/M file organization which is necessary for programs which operate upon CP/M files.
$C P / M$ System Alteration Guide - the alteration guide gives the step-by-step process which you must follow in order to alter the CP/M system to run with non-standard hardware. I/O drivers for commonly available hardware systems are given.

Individual manuals are $\$ 5$. A package consisting of all six manuals is $\$ 25$. An initialized, "loaded" floppy disc is $\$ 50$. A disc and all documentation - "the works" - is \$70. And, of course, Californians get to add $6 \%$ tax.

Digital Research, Box 579, Pacific Grove, CA 93950, (408) 373-3403.

## PRAISE FOR DIGITAL SYSTEMS' FLOPPY UNITS \& DIGITAL RESEARCH'S CP/M

Dear Dr. Dobb,<br>Nov. 1, 1976

I have seen the articles on the CP/M floppy disc operating system available from Digital Systems. I am writing because I am a satisfied customer. I have had a system from Digital Systems running for nearly a year now and have had no trouble with it. The hardware is reliable and well designed. I do not know of anything presently on the market that compares favorably to it. The software is also fantastic and reliable. It is easy to interface with the DOS to read and write files, and do I/O. The software developed by Digital Research is well designed and is implemented much like the Monitor on the DEC System 10. The assembler, editor and debugger supported by the system are excellent. In addition to that the documentation that comes with the system is first class. I am enthusiastically pleased with the performance of the system.

I have dealt with Digital Systems and can unqualifiedly say that they are honest, decent and responsive. Dr. Torode was exceptionally helpful in getting the system up and supporting me afterwards. I have not encountered a more honest and responsive vendor.

The software written by Digital Research is excellent in design and documentation and to me it would be worth five times the price.

Altogether the combination of hardware and software which is provided turns an 8080 system into a true software development system which is flexible, easy to use, easy to learn, and reliable. Sincerely,
Robert Swartz
195 Ivy Lane
Highland Park, IL 60035

## A SUPER, TURNKEY DUAL FLOPPY SYSTEM

Dear Jim,
Sept. 17, 1976
You guys are usually way ahead on new products and
things but have you seem the DTC Micro File?
It's a WOW!

- 8080A Super System
- Has an extremely high quality, compact, dual floppy
- Has superb system software including fantastic text editor
- Uses MITS BASIC (they bought it) plus numerous improvements
- Speeds to 9600 baud through two RS323 ports

It might appear as a commercial system to you folks (it is!)-you should check it against IMSAI's dual disk system. It runs rings around them on price and is far superior. Price $\$ 4295$.

If you haven't seen it you should take a look.
Keep up the excellent work with $D D J$.
Sincerely,
A. C. Delmas

ADVANCE SYSTEMS
P. O. Box 531

Saratoga, CA 95070
[We heard identical remarks from another friend whose judgment has been impeccable. DTC is located at 1190 Dell Ave., Bldg. L, Campbell, CA 95008, (408) 378-1112.-Editor]

## ARITHMETIC EXPRESSION EVALUATOR MOD

Gentlemen:
Sept. 13, 1976
Enclosed you will find a modification of Bill Thompson's arithmetic expression evaluator published in your June/ July 1976 edition. As another uninitiated person on the subject of interpreters, I found his BASIC program to be enlightening.

However, after trying out his program, I did find that his stack operations could be handled much more efficiently by moving pointers to the stack tops, rather than the entire stacks. Also, I tried to make the flow a little more readable by limiting the use of GOTO statements to within the same subroutine and by starting the line numbers of the subroutines in increments of 500 . Since my mod was implemented on a PDP-11, there are some minor differences in the string functions.

Thanks,
Jim Abshire
508-4th St.
Laurel, MD 28810






## COMPONENTS FOR SPECIFYING PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES AND MODS TO THE TINY HI LANGUAGE DESIGN

## Dear DDJ,

Nov. 17, 1976
Enclosed are about a dozen changes in TINY HI, an updated language summary, and a brief description of HI. None of the changes significantly effect the scope of TINY, but I believe they make it an even nicer language. I am shelving TINY LISP, TINY SNOBOL, and the extensible language I mentioned; my system is up and I want to implement TINY. I renege on the promise to describe FORTH as Interface has had a good article on it.

I will act as a clearinghouse to standardize TINY HI implementations. A complete language standard (as detailed below) should be out by 15 January. Implementors please send $\$ 3$ to cover copying costs and first class postage. This will be the last revision in $D D J$, but I believe I've finalized what the user sees. $D D J$ will get a free copy of those standards for existing; otherwise I would have to invent it and couldn't do nearly as well. I hope to be HI in 77.

Laissez faire,
Martin Buchanan
(703) 893-7978

2040 Lord Fairfax Rd.
Vienna, VA 22180

## ELEMENTS OF PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE STANDARDS

1. A complete semantic and syntactic description (mostly accomplished). This includes little things like the significance of blanks, levels of nesting, algorithms used for real or mixed arithmetic (in languages with real numbers), and identification of lexical tokens;
2. Storage formats for source programs, object programs, and data, both in main memory or on mass storage units;
3. Conventions for the naming and semantics of global functions or variables which handle hardware differences (.DEVICE, .MAINSIZE, etc.);
4. Standard names and algorithms for common library functions;
5. All error messages, when they are invoked, and their meaning;
6. Text-editing functions during data entry;
7. Interfacing with machine language programs;
8. Linking loader design;
9. Dynamic storage allocation and file retrieval design.

## CHANGES TO TINY HI

Comments: a semicolon (";") in column one reserves only the line on which it appears for comments. A semicolon in any other column reserves that column and all to the right of it for comments until ";" is again encountered in the comment field. This replaces the "/*" and "*/" delimiters previously specified. The change makes commenting easier to learn and use, and increases flexibility.

Vectors: Vectors may have lengths up to $2^{32}-1$. Otherwise it would be almost impossible to handle data structures with more than 256 elements. This also allows any positive integer as a subscript.

Logical operators:AND, OR, NOT ; NOT is evaluated first. AND and OR have equal precedence. All three must be set off by blanks or )( as in:

$$
\text { NOT } \mathrm{A}=\mathrm{B} \quad \text { or } \quad(\mathrm{A}>\operatorname{MIN}) \operatorname{AND}(\mathrm{A}<\mathrm{MAX})
$$

making structure as clear as possible, else many unnecessary IFs and DOs would make programs more confusing.

Continuation lines: a plus sign (" + ") as the first nonblank character indicates a continuation line. A line may be continued indefinitely and even when comments intervene or there is a comment field. Continuation lines can be used to make output lists or complex predicates clearer by arranging them on several lines to show structure, and they also reduce the use of temporary variables.

Control structures: The "UNTIL" structure is now:
DO
code
END IF $p$
The "WHILE" structure is now:
DO IF p
code
END
The compound structure is also allowed:

```
DO IF p
    code
END IF q
```

Noise may no longer be added to END statements.
Professor Howard Tompkins of Indiana University of Pennsylvania caused my reexamination of my control structures, for which I am grateful, though we still disagree as to the best iterative structure. He pointed out that "UNTIL" should be "WHILE NOT" from the English meanings of the words, and also that UNTIL in COBOL has a meaning different from the one used by I and IBM. The new construct locates each predicate where it is actually examined, allows a new structure, reduces my vocabulary, eliminates a source of possible confusion, and allows for future integration with an iterative form:
DO I=J TO K BY L IF A(I) <A(I+1)

Input: ? alone will get a literal from the keyboard with the prompt "? 4 ". ? followed by a variable will generate a prompt of the form: "<variable> "

Subvectors: In a sequence of numbers or characters, one often wants to indicate a subvector that is a continuous sequence, often a very long one. Other programming languages use pseudovariables (PL/I's SUBSTR function), "index generation" (APL), or novel subscripting forms (A $[5 ; 8]$ in HP BASIC 3000). My subscripting form for indicating subvectors should be familiar to any user of English. I call it "ellipsis". It is formed by three consecutive periods between the initial and final subscript, but separated by blanks from them (to avoid ambiguities when I introduce real numbers in HI):
$\mathrm{A}[4 \ldots 11]$ is the same as $\mathrm{A}[4567891011]$,
but both in conception and the generation of object code, the first is preferable.

Global indication: the "." prefix can be omitted from calls of external functions unless the function name is duplicated by a local fucntion. My theory is that data is usually local and functions are usually global.

Subscripting: is an operation and may apply to expressions:
$(\mathrm{A}+\mathrm{B})\left[\begin{array}{ll}2 & 3 \\ 5\end{array}\right]$

- MORE -


## TINY HI，cont．

Arithmetic：append ${ }^{* *}$ ，exponentiation．HI has it，and I want the differences between the two levels to be few and ma－ jor．Exponentiation is also easy to implement in integer arith－ metic．I prefer＊＊to the up arrow．Exponentiation derives from multiplication just as multiplication from addition，so the symbol is logical in some sense，and also common．I want to reserve the up arrow for a（presently undefined） sorting or ordering operation．

## REVISED TINY LANGUAGE SUMMARY

Vocabulary：BEGIN END IF ELSE DO
Comments：；
Continuation：＋
Infix arithmetic：＋＿＊／＊＊
Prefix arithmetic：
Concatenation：blank
Length operator：\＃＂number＂
Relational ops：\ll＝\gg＝＜＞
Logical ops：AND OR NOT
Assignment：＊
Input：？
Global：
Nesting：（）
Subscripting：［ ］
Substring：．．＂ellipsis＂
Data types：INTEGER STRING
Data structure：the vector

## WHAT HI ADDS TO TINY HI

1．Data types REAL and LOGICAL，and the corresponding literals；
2．Multidimensional arrays；
3．Data declarations；
4．For program correctness，the attributes INITIAL，RANGE， and TYPE，and the ability to test an expression＇s type；
5．For output：the attribute FORMAT；
functions SKIP，X，T；
globals ．COL，．LINES，．SPACE；
6．The iterative DO TO \｛BY \}
POSTSCRIPT：
Nov．23， 1976
1．Negation of -215 will produce an overflow．
2．Concatenation has a lower priority than \＃or negation， but still greater than the infix arithmetic operators．
The example given for＂number＂should be＂\＃（573－1）＂．
3．Functions may have no argument，as in＂CPTIME（）＂．
4．After＂END WHILE＂in GCF there should be the line ＂GCF＋Y＂．

I want to thank those who wrote about TINY HI，especi－ ally Gregg Townsend．
回回回回圖圆圆回回圆圆圆圆圆
RCA 1802 PLEA
To：Jim Warren
Nov．2， 1976
I＇ve not seen anything yet on the 1802．Is it too new for the hobbyist，or what？Could you publish a short request for responses from any 1802 users？［Yup！］

Sincerely，
Harley Shanko
15025 Vanowen St．，No． 209
Van Nuys，CA 91405

## TINY HI SUGGESTIONS

Dear Mr．Buchanan：
I would like to offer some suggestions regarding your TINY HI language as defined in the October，1976，Dr．Dobb＇s Journal

First of all，let me say that I LIKE IT！It seems to be quite powerful in its simplicity．

I like the one－statement－per line format；PL／I addicts look down their noses at FORTRAN for this but readable programs require it． I like being able to easily put comments on the same lines as state－ ments；this is what often makes the comments of assembly－language programs better than those of so－called higher level languages．＂？＂ for input is great，and I admire the simplicity of the vector scheme．

Now for the comments：（this is more or less random order）
1．Negation of $-2^{15}$ will probably produce overflow；so perhaps there is a case where negation can produce an error．
2．Rather than bracketing loops with WHILE ．．END，how about using LOOP and REPEAT？
a．WHILE and UNTIL do not imply iteration except to a program－ mer who＇s seen them before．
b．WHILE cond terminates when cond goes false，and UNTIL cond terminates when it goes true；but it＇s very hard to see why one of these implies a test at the front of the loop and the other at the back．
This isn＇t original－see Knuth in Computing Surveys Vol． 4
No． 6 （Dec．1974），pp．278－280．

| LOOP IF cond | LOOP |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\cdot$ | $\cdot$ |
| code | code |
| $\dot{\cdot}$ | $\dot{+}$ |
| REPEAT | REPEAT IF cond |
| （test at top） | （test at bottom） |

3．How about providing a means for the $n+1 / 2$ loop problem？Again stealing from Knuth：
LOOP
LOOP
＂ENTER A＂？A
＂ENTER A＂？A
WHILE A $>47$ for
IF A＞ 47 EXITLOOP
＂TOO BIG＂
＂TOO BIG＂
REPEAT
REPEAT
4．I finally figured out why the example＂No．573－1＂looks strange to me：because I can＇t get used to a unary operator with a higher precedence than a binary operator（ $\$$ ）．All unary operators （\＃？－）shoutd be higher than the binary operators．Under the cur－ rent rules，$\left(\begin{array}{ll}-5 & 7 \\ 9\end{array}\right)=(-5)(-7)(-9)!$
5．What determines whether input is taken as string or integer？How can 123 be input as a string？
6．What sets the value of a function？Should the example have an additional line ．GCF $\& Y$ ？
7．The current syntax disallows null arguments such as ．CPTIME（）． Is this intentional？
8．Deletion of the／＊or＊／line has the potential for causing a lot of trouble when editing a program．I would favor a scheme such as it is used by some assemblers where ；means that everything else on the line is a comment．
9．Since a string is really a vector of characters，and you allow vectors of strings，will you allow vectors of vectors（of vectors ．．．）？
10.1 agree with $\&$ for assignment but please choose the character to be used with ASCii keyboards before every implementor picks a different one．
I guess that＇s all that comes to mind now．I＇m sending a copy of this to $D D J$ ．Keep up the good work！

Yours，
Gregg Townsend
450 N．Mathilda，No．J20
Sunnyvale，CA 94086
Nov．15， 1976

## NEW COMPUTER MART

The Computer Mart of New Hampshire is currently located on Daniel Webster Hwy N，Merrimack，NH 03054，（603） 424－2981．On January 1st，it will move to 170 Main St．， Nashua，NH 03060．［information from Ron Cordova，76－12－4］

## 6800 MONITOR RELATIONS

Dear Editor,
Nov. 10, 1976
Motorolá makes several monitor roms (Mikbug*, Minibug*, Minibug II* and Exbug*) for their M6800 systems. Most systems in hobbyist hands are currently using Mikbug*. Minibug 11* now seems to be available from Mini Micro-Mart and it has several additional and enhanced features over Mikbug*. These features are serial I/O to an ACIA for the control interface, binary load, binary dump, S9 on last record of punch, user control of "SWI" vector, upward and downward movement during address changes and memory test commands. Documentation on the commands is supplied, but no listing or hardward implementation guides. We are using Minibug 11* in a SWTP 6800 and are pleased with its operation. The following notes are supplied for those who might wish to try this rom.

| Dennis Sutherland | David Kyllingstad | Ron Tonneson |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $2835-25$ th Ave. | 840 Hillview Dr. | Fairfax, IA |
| Marion, IA | Marion, IA |  |
| Trademark of Motorola |  |  |
| MINIBUG II SOFTWARE EOUIVALENCE |  |  |

Minibug II is not to be confused with Minibug which is located in the upper half of Mikbug and is probably not worth finding at this point in time. The following entry points have been tested and appear to work in programs that reference them.

|  | MIKBUG | MINIBUG II |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| ROUTINE | ADDRESS | ADDRESS |
| OUTCH | E1D1 | E108 |
| INCH | E1AC | E11F |
| OUTHL | E067 | E0FA |
| OUTHR | E06B | E0FE |
| OUTS | E0CC | E180 |
| PDATA1 | E07E | E130 |
| CONTRL | E0E3 | E040 |
| INHEX | E0AA | E070 |
| BADDR | E047 | E0D9 |
| OUT4HS | E0C8 | E17C |
| OUT2HS | E0CA | E17E |

## MINIBUG II HARDWARE CHANGES REQUIRED

## General

Since Minibug II is a IK rom, $A_{g}$ must be made active instead of being grounded. $\mathrm{CS}_{0}$ and $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ are $\mathrm{g}_{\text {active low instead of active high }}$ as was Mikbug. This requires inverting the logic pins 10 and 11. SWTPC

Isolate IC2 pin 15 ( $A_{\rho}$ ) from the large ground buss by making a cut around the plated through that now connects pin 15 to ground. Do not drill out the through. Use a miniature circular saw, a miniature fly cutter or an Exacto knife. Now connect the isolated pad (IC2-15) to the pad immediately to the right which comes from IC-13.

If a semi permanent change is anticipated, cut the lines coming from IC2-10 and 11 just past the first bend. Connect a jumper from IC16-8 to IC2-10 (CS 0 ). Connect a jumper from IC13-4 to IC2-11 (CS 1 ).

If plug-in interchangeability is desired, don't make the last two cuts but add two inverters.

The inverters may be made and installed between a 24 pin IC plug and a 24 pin socket (available from James Electronics). See schematic below.

Mount the socket piggyback on the plug and solder all other pins one to one. (Pins 1-9 and 12-24 are straight through, pins 10 and 11 are now inverted).

## GLITCH: TINY BASIC \& MEK SYSTEMS

## Dear DDJ, <br> Oct. 26, 1976

I was referred a copy of what appears to be a column in the CHG-NT newsletter, which briefly mentions a failure of Tiny BASIC 6800 in Mot Eval kits.

It is true that I have had a number of calls from owners of MEK systems in which Tiny BASIC failed to run. It seems that the Motorola kit comes with no memory (except for the Mikbug private RAM), and very little else. When the user adds a 4 K memory board care should be taken that all of the address and data lines are properly buffered in the expanded system, since buffers are not provided in the basic kit.

What happens is that Mikbug is able to load and display the memory with no problem, but the program will not run. This is due to the excessive capacitance in the address lines (the 6800 is spec'ed at 130 pf , which is good for about $8-10$ MOS devices; a 4K static RAM board alone has 32 MOS devices on some of the address lines). This causes the access lines to be slowed considerably. Mikbug does all its memory access using the Indexed addressing mode, which leaves the address stable for two full memory cycles ( $2 \mu \mathrm{~s} \mathrm{~min}$ ) before attempting a read or write, thus permitting an actual access time of over $2.5 \mu \mathrm{~s}$; program permitting an actual access time of over $2.5 \mu \mathrm{~s}$; program execution on the other hand is not so forgiving, and the memory must respond in 575 ns . The unbuffered system can't hack the speed. That this is indeed the problem may be verified by stretching 02 to 2 or $3 \mu \mathrm{~s}$.

I have no record of Mr. Mikel's having attempted to communicate his problem to me, and I do know of over 100 properly buffered MEK systems on which Tiny runs fine.

Tom Pittman
PO Box 23189
Itty Bitty Computers San Jose, CA 95123 cc: Roger Mikel

Computer Hobbyist Group-NT

## A SPECIAL PURPOSE EDITOR FOR MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION?

Dear Jim, Nov. 6, 1976
About reinventing the wheel... am I going to have to write my own program for word processing - in the sense of manuscript preparation? Text editors are fine for programmers but they aren't of much help for authors. What is available for an 8080 or Z-80 in the public domain? F.J. Greeb's "Classy 8080 Text Editor," DDJ No. 6, looks like a good step in the right direction. Everything is done on the video screen except the final hardcopy output. But a manuscript processor needs to be sentence and paragraph oriented, not line oriented, and needs to have the capability of juggling stuff among tape units or floppy disk files. (I always seem to be moving paragraphs from the end of the text to the beginning or some other spot several pages away.) Then there are nice things like automatic page numbering, single or double spacing from the same source file, and the ability to not mess up special formats such as tables or lists while at the same time properly adjusting lines and paragraphs as words or sentences are added or deleted. I would be pleased to hear from anyone with interests along these lines.

Yours truly,
Dr. Charles F. Douds
381 Poplar St.
Winnetka, IL 60093
*Any plastic NPN switching transistor (2N5210, MPS3646, etc.)


## A 16-BIT FLOATING POINT PROPOSAL

In past weeks, I have talked to several members of the CACHE about "tiny languages." I keep hearing, " I 'd use it if it only had floating point." Having written three languages myself, I can understand this. Nobody seems to realize that 32 bits are a lot more than twice as hard to work with as 16.

As a compromise I propose 16 bit floating point. The format I have worked out gives 3 significant digits with an exponent of -15 to +15 (decimal). Proposed format:


I don't have the time or ambition to write this now, but I would be happy to swap ideas with anyone interested. Bob Van Valzah
(312) 852-0472 (Home)

1140 Hickory Trl.
Downers Grove, IL 60519
(312) 971-2010 Ext. 231
(Work)

## 6800 MOTOROLA FOR SIMULTANEOUS NUMBER CRUNCHING AND ANTENNA POINTING

Dear Sir,
17 Nov. 1976
Two of us here in the Northern Virginia area are interested in using a micro for some number crunching (with a peripheral calculator chip) and antenna pointing for satellite work (simultaneously). The 6800 Motorola line of chips looks like it will fill the bill due to the superior I/O configuration possible. The 8080 kinda misses the boat. So I am interested in all kinds of homebrew hardware for 6800 line compatible with SWTP line.

Sincerely,
Ellis Marshall, W4JK Rt. 1, Box 158
Front Royal, VA 22630

## FREDDIE'S FOLLY

by Jim Day
Frugal Freddie bought a video board kit from a local computer store a couple of months ago. He saved a few bucks by not busying sockets for the ICs. "Who needs 'em?" he said. "I'll just solder everything." The board worked fine for a few weeks, then developed a hardware glitch that Freddie hasn't been able to track down. He took it back to the computer store and asked them what it would cost to fix.
"Well now," said the repairman, "If this thing had sockets, I'd probably find the trouble in a few minutes by random substitution. But with everything soldered down to the board, there's no telling how long it might take. Why, it could end up costing you more than the price of the kit!"

One can avoid duplicating Freddie's folly by socketing everything.

Socket it to 'em, Freddy!

## HAMATIC NOTE IN $B Y T E$

[^2]
## ERRATA FOR RANKIN'S 6502

 FLOATING POINT ROUTINESDear Jim,<br>Sept. 22, 1976

Subsequent to the publication of "Floating Point Routines for the $6502^{\prime \prime}$ (Vol. 1, No. 7) an error which I made in the LOG routine came to light which causes improper results if the argument is less than 1 . The following changes will correct the error.

1. After: CONT JSR SWAP (1D07)

Add: A2 00 LDX=0 LOAD X FOR HIGH BYTE OF EXPONENT
2. After: STA M1+1 (1D12)

Delete: LDA $=0$
$\begin{array}{cc}\text { Add: } & \text { STA } \\ \text { 10 } 01 & \text { M1 } \\ \text { CPL } & \text { DEX } \\ & \text { DA } \\ & 86 \text { IS } 09 \text { STX } \\ & \end{array}$
3. Changes 1 and 2 shift the code by 3 bytes so add 3 to the addresses of the constants LN10 through MHLF wherever they are referenced. For example the address of LN10 changes from 1DCD to 1DD0. Note also that the entry point for LOG10 becomes 1DBF. The routine stays within the page and hence the following routines (EXP etc.) are not affected.

Yours truly,

## COMPLETE 8080A FLOATING POINT PKG FOR \$7.50 AND NEW CASSETTE DATA FORMAT STANDARD TO BE PROPOSED

Dear Editor:
Sept. 21, 1976
In response to Paul Holbrook's letter in the September issue, regarding the need for a cassette data format standard, I would like to inform you that a standard with software has been developed; the Mohler standard will be published in an upcoming issue of Interface.

The standard allows for various types of data formats and is expandable, so new ones can be added. It is also universal enough for the format to be independent of cassette interface hardware and processor type. We hope to make the Mohler cassette format a standard in the computer hobbyist industry.

I would also like to inform readers that I have devel oped a single-precision floating point software package for the 8080A (6-7 digits of precision). The package includes add, subtract, multiply, divide, and utility programs to convert from ASCII BCD to binary and binary to packed BCD . It takes up about 1200 bytes and is relatively fast, e.g., 2.5 msec worst case time for multiply.

Also nearing completion is a scientific function package which includes square root, sine, cosine, exponential, natural logarithm, log base ten, arc tangent, hyperbolic sine, and hyperbolic cosine. This package is to be used with the floating point package and takes up less than 1 K bytes. It also has six digits of accuracy.

The floating point package is now available for $\$ 7.50$. Included are manual, paper tape, and complete annotated source listing. The scientific package will also be $\$ 7.50$. Both packages may be ordered for a reduced price of $\$ 10.00$. To obtain one or both, send your name, address, and the appropriate amount to:

Burt Hashizume
P.O. 172

Placentia, CA 92670

# CHASE: 三 $=\otimes$ <br> A One or Two Player Video Game 

Start it running \& just try to pry your kids away from your computer

-Marvin R. Winzenread

Try to catch the bouncing dot or convert the program to a two person chase game. It requires 256 bytes of memory and a Processor Technology VDM or similar video display.

To convert to a two person chase game change addresses 0051-0056 to:

| 0051 | DB | FF | IN OFFH |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0053 | IF | RAR |  |
| 0054 | IF | RAR | Second player moves <br> using left four sense |
| 0055 | IF | RAR | switches. |

For an interesting variation in the original program change 0051 to 7 B ; MOV A,E
*If your VDM is not addressed as $8 \mathrm{C}=$ Port Address and $8800-8 \mathrm{BFF}$ as memory, you need to change these statements.








P M
$Z$ HLT
$A F O$













## WHIPPLE \& ARNOLD DEVELOP A SUPER DUPER BASIC INTERPRETER (\$25)

Binary Systems Corp. has intrduced a new interpreter for 8080-based microcomputers. Called BASIC ETC, the new interpreter was co-developed by John Arnold and Dick Whipple of Tyler, TX, authors of the first implementation of Tiny BASIC. It includes floating point ( 6 to 72 digits) and variable-length integers.
"Our goal was to develop a variant of BASIC designed specificically for the hobbyist and small business user, keeping in mind that the most important priorities - from the user's standpoint - were ease of program development and straightforward, one-step program execution."
"We feel we've accomplished that goal, and with a memory efficient program, too." said Arnold.

BASIC ETC uses the lower 8 K of memory plus at least 1 K of RAM for scratchpad. Since BASIC ETC is for games and business applications, the less frequently used scientific functions of Dartmough BASIC are not available.

According to Arnold, BASIC ETC is readily software adapted to the individual's system, and "the best answer today for the 8080-based microcomputer owner shopping for an easy to use high level language."

The BASIC ETC kit, which includes the program - on either audio cassette tape or paper tape - and a 32-page, detailed user's manual, sells for $\$ 25.00$. The manual sells for $\$ 6.00$ separately.

Kits may be ordered from the Micro Store, 634 S. Central Expressway, Richardson TX 75080. The Micro Store is the retail affiliate of Richardson-based Binary Systems, Inc. Orders should include a check or money order for the price of the item. For cassette tape, the purchaser must indicate
his choice of either the Kansas City or Suding/Digital Group recording technique.

Features of BASIC ETC are listed below:

* Immediate delivery
* Readily software adapted to user's system
* Resides in only 8 K of memory
* Supplied on either cassette tape (Kansas City or Suding/Digital

Group format), or on paper tape.

* Thorough explanatory manual.
* Full string capability - up to 255 characters string variable
* N-dimensional arrays
* Variable precision arithmetic
* Easily handles assembly language routines
* Direct memory and I/O addressing
* 27 error codes
* Both character and line erasure editing
* Subroutine nesting permitted
* 31 commands and statements
* 8 functions plus user defined functions
* Null control: 0 to 25 seconds
* Formatted output statements










## LIFE'S LIKE THAT <br> LIFE ON AN 8080 WITH A VDM

The game of life seems to be a natural for the VDM. So much has been written about it.

Here is a short version that requires toggling only 116 bytes. An earlier version (PCC, Vol. 4 No. 2) required 218 bytes. This program does however RAM equal to the VDM memory to store the next generation. If you are really strapped for memory, use half of the VDM for each generation.

1) Before loading the program, first initialize the screen. On Processor Technology's VDM this is done by sending a zero out to the VDM output port.
2) Load the program and run it. This should clear the screen of random characters within 10 seconds.
3) Use the front panel to load your original population directly into memory ( ${ }^{*}=2 \mathrm{~A}$ in hex).
4) Run the program. Every $2 \frac{1}{2}$ seconds a new generation will appear.

- Marvin R. Winzenread




## 4K AND 8K BASIC FROM SWTPC FOR UNDER \$5-\$10

Southwest Technical Products Corporation has just released its 4 K and 8 K BASIC software. Both feature fixed and floating point math with a full 1.0E-99 to $9.9999999999 \mathrm{E}+99$ number range. In addition to the line number mode a direct (no line number) mode of execution is provided on most statements to create a calculator like mode of entry for short programs. Provisions have been made in both packages for saving and loading BASIC programs to and from either cassette or paper tape. A USER function is even provided for jumping to machine language subroutines.

Both packages have been written for the SWTPC 6800 Computer System. The $4 K$ BASIC © requires a minimum of $6 K$ of memory with 8 K recommended, while the 8 K BASIC © requires a minimun of 8 K of memory with 12 K recommended. The 4 K BASIC © tape and manual sell for $\$ 4.95$ on "Kansas City" cassette tape and $\$ 10.00$ on paper tape: The 8K © tape and manual sell for \$9.95 on "Kansas City" cassette tape and $\$ 20.00$ for paper tape. All prices are postpaid in the U.S: SWTPC, 219 W. Rhapsody, San Antonio, TX 78216, (512) 344-9778 SWTPC Has copyrighted 4 K and 8K BASIC. Version 1.0 program material and manual may be copied for personal use only. No duplication or modification for commercial use of any kind is authorized.

COMMANDS
LIST
RUN
NEW
SAVE
LOAD
PATCH

|  | FUNCTIONS |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| ABS | †VAL | †SIN |
| INT | †EXTS | †COS |
| RND | †LENS | †TAN |
| SGN | †LEFTS | †EXP |
| CHR | †MIDS | †LOG |
| USER | †RIGHTS | †SQR |
| TAB |  |  |

## MATH OPERATORS

- (unary) Negate
* Multiplication
/ Division
+ Addition
- Subtraction
t个 Exponent

STATEMENTS END
GOTO* STOP ON... GOTO* GOSUB* ON...GOSUB* PATCH* IF...THEN* RETURN INPUT tDES PRINT* tPEEK NEXT †POKE

## *Direct Mode statements

 $\dagger 8 \mathrm{~K}$ Version onlyTiny BASIC Game Contest

## OPPORTUNITY TO WIN A MICROCOMPUTER ASSOCIATES VIDEO TERMINAL, ETC.

1st Prize: VT-200 terminal with resident TINY BASIC and JOLT assembler
2nd Prize: VT-100 terminal
3rd Prize: JOLT 4K system kit
4th - 10th Prizes: JOLT CPU kits

## CONTEST RULES:

1. All entries must be postmarked by April 1, 1977.
2. All entries must be submitted as follows:
a. JOLT TINY BASIC source program as paper tape with CR, LF and four (4) rubout characters terminating each source statement.
b. Running instructions, game description and at least one example of game play-all in typewritten form on $812^{\prime \prime} \times 11^{\prime \prime}$ white bond suitable for printing.
3. All entries must run on an MAI VT-200 equipped with 4,096 bytes of RAM storage, OR on a JOLT 4K system equipped with TINY BASIC.
4. All entries must run correctly and be sufficiently well documented to enable a non-technical person to enter, run and play the game as directed by the running instructions. Entries which for any reason do not run or are not sufficiently well documented to enable easy entry and play will be DISQUALIFIED.
5. All decisions by MAI with respect to acceptance, disqualification, and winners will be final.
6. MAI employees and their families are not eligible to enter.
7. This contest void where prohibited by law.

All entries become the property of MAI and will not be returned.
Contest winners will be notified by registered mail no later than 60 days from contest closing date of April 1, 1977. Contest Winners will also be published in the Microcomputer Digest and the JOLT Users Newsletter. Contest Winners may also be obtained directly by sending a stamped self addressed envelope to MAI no earlier than May 1, 1977 and no later than July 1, 1977.
10. The JOLT TINY BASIC language summary is available at participating computer stores. The language summary may also be obtained by sending $\$ 1.00$ cash, check, or money order for postage and handling to MAI TINY BASIC CONTEST, P.O. Box 1167, Cupertino, CA 95014. A paper tape form of JOLT TINY BASIC complete with documentation is available by sending $\$ 5.00$ cash, check or money order to ITTY BITTY Computers, P.O. Box 23189, San Jose, CA 95123.

GOOD POINTERS ON 6800 SYSTEMS SOFTWARE

Dear Dr. Dobb's,
Sept. 22, 1976
Your readers who are interested in the article by Tom Pittman on the 6800 Resident Assembler and Editor might like to know that true annotated assembly listings of the I/O routines are available in the 6800 users group library.

Program No. 10 is a listing of the $I / O$ routines used with EXBUG. While this listing does not describe the routines in EXBUG itself, the comments do provide an insight into the operation of the flags.

Of more interest is Program No. 11 which is the MIKBUG version of the I/O routines. When this is combined with the listing of MIKBUG in Engineering Note 100 on the MCM 6830L7 ROM one will have a listing of a complete I/O system. This can be used as a model to develop suitable I/O routines to interface the Assembler and Editor with any system.

The price Motorola charges for the Assembler and Editor is a little high for home use though.

Sincerely,
John P. Byrns
1953 Governors Ln. Hoffman Estates, IL 60195

## A $\$ 5$ WUMPUS

$\mathrm{Hi}-$
I have written a machine language version of "Wumpus" by Greg Yob. It's a great game. The 8080 program is under 3 K and is self-contained. It requires no user PROM subroutines, etc. Anyway, if anyone wants a listing, just send your name, address and $\$ 5.00$ to:

Ron Santore
1957 Huasna Dr.
San Luis Obispo, CA 94301

## MUMPS IS SPREADING

## Oct. 18, 1976

The MUMPS computer language is used for medical and business applications. The number of institutions that use MUMPS is growing by about $80 \%$ per year. A concise pocket guide to MUMPS has been written to facilitate use of this text-handling and data management language. The guide includes descriptions of all the commands, operators, functions, and all other capabilities of Standard MUMPS, and gives many examples of their use. The Standard was developed from a dozen MUMPS dialects, under the sponsorship of the National Bureau of Standards and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Single copies of the guide are available at no charge from Dr. Joan Zimmerman, MUMPS Users' Group, 700 S. Euclid Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110.

## ERRATA FOR PREVIOUS CCC INFORMATION:

The CCC Program Repository currently furnishes programs on roll paper tape; not on fan-fold, as was previously announced.

The Community Computer Center (CCC) will act as a repository for program tapes; both source tapes and binary tapes. Everyone wishing to contribute programs to the public domain may do so by forwarding appropriate paper tapes to CCC. In particular, if you are hesitant about submitting a program for publication in Dr. Dobb's Journal because you don't want to hassle with its distribution, you are encouraged to forward the tapes to CCC and the documentation to the Journal for publication.

The CCC will thus serve as a desirable alternative and supplement to the User Groups that are controlled and operated by many of the processor manufacturers, some of whom charge up to $\$ 100$ for "membership" and access to the programs that their customers developed and offered to the User Group, without compensation.

There is no membership fee for access to the tapes from the Community Computer Center. Instead, one pays only for the duplication and mailing costs:

Duplication charge: $\$ 1 /$ ounce or fraction thereof, for tapes
(weighed after punching on roll paper tape)
(Add 6\% tax for orders mailed to a California address)
Postage and handling: $\$ 0.50$ on orders of $\$ 5$ and less $\$ 1$ on orders exceeding \$5
Payment must accompany all orders. Orders will be mailed First Class, within 3 days of receipt.
Lists of available tapes will be published, periodically, in Dr. Dobb's Journal, as well as being available from CCC:

Community Computer Center
1919 Menalto Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(415) 326-4444

The following source tapes are currently available. They are programs written for the version of BASIC that is implemented for the HP 2000F minicomputers, and are discussed in What To Do After You Hit Return (available from the PCC Bookstore, \$6.95).

## Tiny BASIC for Altairs \& IMSAIs:

Palo Alto Tiny BASIC
Star Trek in Palo Alto Tiny BASIC 2 Palo Alto Tiny BASIC for HP2100 XASYM 2

| Numbers Guessing Games | $\$ 12$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Number | 2 |
| Abase | 3 |
| Trap | 2 |
| Stars | 2 |
| Clocks | 3 |
| Bagels | 2 |
| Quadgt | 3 |
| Button | 2 |


| Word Games | \$10 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Letter | 2 |
| Abagel | 3 |
| Hangmn | 3 |
| Madlib | 6 |
| Word | 2 |
| "Nimlike" Games | \$11 |
| 23Mtch | 2 |
| Batnum | 3 |
| Nim | 4 |
| Chomp | 3 |
| Zot | 5 |
| Hide-n-Seek in 2D | \$ 4 |
| Hurkle | 2 |
| Mugwmp | 2 |
| Snark | 2 |
| Pattern Games | \$11 |
| Dangle | 2 |
| Sunsgn | 3 |
| Biosin | 3 |
| Mandal | 3 |
| Life | 3 |
| Amaze | 3 |
| Board Games | \$11 |
| Qubic5 | 5 |
| Gomoku | 4 |
| Teaser | 3 |
| Rover | 5 |
| Welcome to the Caves | \$ 9 |
| Caves1 | 5 |
| Wumpus | 4 |
| Caves2 | 5 |
| Business \& Social Science | \$22 |
| Hamrbi | 3 |
| King | 5 |
| Civil2 | 7 |
| Market | 5 |
| Stock | 5 |
| Policy | 4 |
| Polut | 4 |
| Science Fiction Games | \$12 |
| Trader | 10 |
| Sttr 1 | 9 |
| Last Chapter | \$10 |
| Crash | 4 |
| Lunar | 3 |
| Revers | 2 |
| Zeros | 3 |
| Taxman | 3 |
| The following games are in | Dartmouth BASIC |
| Motie | 5 |
| Rescue | 5 |
| Pounce1 |  |
| Dodgem | 3 |
| Sinners | 2 |
| Kingdom for TSS/8 BASIC: |  |
| English Version | \$ 2 |
| Spanish Version | 2 |

## SAN FRANCISCO'S SETH IS BECOMING THE BOOTSTRAP COMPUTER STORE

A computer mob known as SETH, 4001 - 24th St., San Francisco, CA 94114, is working on opening a storefront computer operation that will include walk-in, play-a-computer-game facilities. They have miscellaneous peripheral gear and would like to trade some of it for other goodies. They will also sell gear on a consignment basis. They can be contacted at the above address or at 3981-24th St. By phone, call (415) 282-8000 or 282-3550 (11 a.m. - 7 p.m.), and ask for Bob, George or

## BUSINESS SOFTWARE . . . FOR \$3,000

[^3]
## Computer Music Journal




The Computer Music Journal will be devoted to the development of computer systems which are capable of producing high quality music. The following topics will be covered:

* production of natural sounding timbre or quality of tone by Fourier like synthesis (with up to 128 ultra low distortion sine waves from one digital oscillator ), FM synthesis, and new methods
* design of real time playing instruments
$\star$ real time controllers such as organ like keyboards, joysticks, pressure sensitive pads, and new designs
* circuit design of microprocessor or minicomputer controlled digital oscillators (any waveshape )
* high speed multiplication ( 16 bit X 16 bit $\rightarrow 16$ bit product in less than 200 ns )
* review of hardware components
* composition of music using a computer
* music theory which would be more easily realized with a computer than with traditional instruments
* homebrew digital music instruments
* choral effects
* digital filtering
* envelope generation of any shape
* digital reverberation and movement of spacial location with Doppler shifting
* high resolution, high speed digital to analog converters
* analysis of acoustic instruments
\# psychoacoustics
- reviews of books about computer music, acoustics of musical instruments, psychoacoustics, music theory, computer design, and electronics.
The first issue of the journal will be about 50 pages in length. If enough people subscribe to pay for printing a larger journal, the journal will increase in size. A one year subscription will cost $\$ 14$ and be published by PCC non profit. The journal will be published every other month. The first issue will be mailed out during January, 1977.

If interested please mail to: PCC, Box E, Menlo Park, Ca. 94025
Enclosed is $\$ 14$ for a one year subscription to the Computer Music Journal
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Box E
Menlo Park CA 94025


TIME VALUE: PLEASE DO NOT DELAY



[^0]:    *Are there any of our readers who don't know about Byte magazine, 70 Main St., Peterborough, NH 03458, \$12/year?

[^1]:    System Requirements
    The NIBL interpreter is intended to be a ROM-resident program in the first $4 K$ of the SC/MP address space (although it will run just as well in RAM). The interpreter requires at least 2 K bytes of RAM starting at address 1000 (base 16), of which the interpreter uses nearly 300 bytes for stacks, variables, etc., leaving the rest for the user's pro-

[^2]:    According to a letter in the (excellent) November issue of Byte, hams who are also interested in computer phreaquery should tune to 3.865 MHz (LSB) on Thursdays at 2300 GMT "for a good time."

[^3]:    Aircom, Inc. (Rt. 16B, Union, NH 03887, 603/473-2323) has three software or business packages for business users. All are assembler coded for a Computer Automation Alpha LSI-2 and are teletype-oriented, both for 1/O and for "record storage" (i.e., on paper tape!).

    Their general ledger accounting program system is $\$ 3,000$ for the software, alone, ot $\$ 9,950$ for the software and a computer with 16 K words. Their payroll package - with 38 character variables - requires 6 K and is available for $\$ 3 \mathrm{~K}$ for the software, or $\$ 8250$ including an 8K machine. They also have a line-oriented forms package for $\$ 7,950$ with an 8 K machine or $\$ 2,700$ for the software, alone.

    They have no documentation that they could provide for our examination, and plan on customer training at their site in New Hampshire.

