

Technical Forum

A Proposed Graphics Software Standard, Part 1

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A major stumbling block to making good software available in the personal computer market is the lack of standardization. Each manufacturer and software developer establishes internal standards for software and hardware interfaces, and they are usually incompatible with one another. Reasons for this vary from the experimenter's attempts to save 1 byte of memory in a 14 K byte program, to the mainframe manufacturer seeking to protect a development investment. The net result is the same. Extensive modifications are typically required to run software on any machine that differs from the original development's hardware and software configuration.

In an effort to prevent this fragmenting effect from overwhelming graphics applications programming, the following graphics interface software protocol is proposed as a standard.

This two-part article presents a complete microcomputer-oriented graphics software protocol and the algorithms required to implement it on typical raster scan graphics displays. The functions of hardware initialization, screen erase, point display, line generation, character generation, and animation are defined, and their implementation is demonstrated with a sample 8080/Z80 assembly language version for the Cromemco Dazzler. The power of a standard protocol is illustrated by a diagnostic demonstration program using the proposed 1 K byte 8080 assembly language protocol standard.

The standard actually proposes two separate but dependent protocols. The top-level protocol is machine independent. It defines a standard display coordinate system, several standard display modes, the available functions, and what these functions do. For example, a request for a red line from the center of the screen to the bottom right corner would always require the following command sequence:

CHAR (RED)	Set the current color to RED
CURSOR (128,128)	Move to the center of the screen
LINE (255,0)	Draw the line

Obviously, not all displays are capable of color; a black and white display would draw a white line instead. To compensate for any deficiencies in the hardware that is being used, a feedback path is included to inform the

user program of the available capabilities. General-purpose programs can check to verify that the display being used is suitable and, if necessary, display an error (or warning) message, or use a different algorithm to accomplish the task at hand. For example, a TV tennis game could check to see if full color was available. If so, it could use red paddles, a yellow ball, a green court, and white boundaries. If only three colors were available, the paddles and ball could be the same color. If only a black and white display was available, all markings could be in white with a black court and background.

The lower-level protocol defines the calling sequences used in a particular programming language. When necessary, it also defines where the routines are loaded in memory, and the addresses of their calling vectors. Returning to the example of drawing a red line, an 8080 (or Z80) assembly language program would use the instruction sequence:

```
MVI A,11H      ;Code for Red
CALL 0113H     ;Vector for CHAR
LXI H,8080H    ;X = 128, Y = 128
CALL 010AH     ;Vector for CURSOR
LXI H,FF00H    ;X = 255, Y = 0
CALL 0110H     ;Vector for LINE.
```

Similarly, a BASIC program would read:

```
REM — Set the current color to RED
CHA 17
REM — Move to the center of the
      screen
CUR 128,128
REM — Draw the line down to corner
LIN 255,0.
```

Suitable standards for other languages remain to be developed. Reader suggestions are welcome.

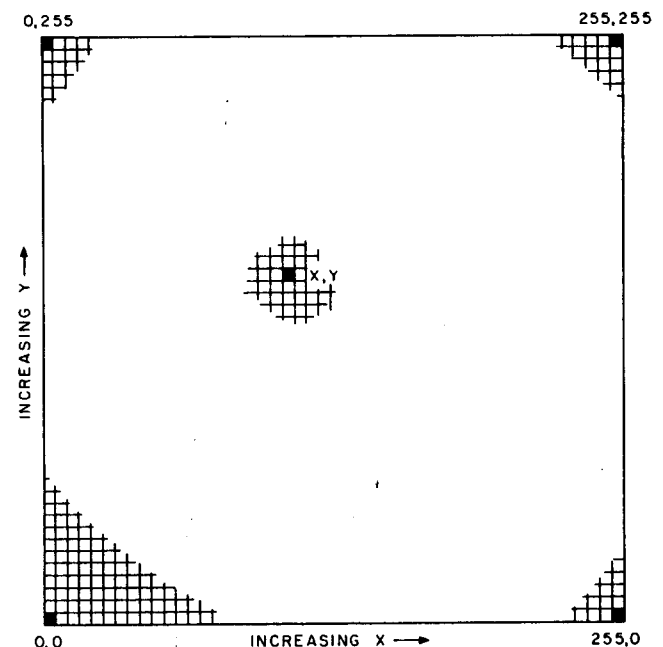


Figure 1: Standard coordinate system used in the proposed graphics software standard.

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The Standard Display

The protocol defines a standard display device to cir-
cumvent hardware differences. The standard device
displays 256 lines with 256 points on each line. As shown
in figure 1, the origin (X = 0, Y = 0) is defined as the bot-
tom leftmost point on the display. X increases to a max-
imum value of 255 as you move to the right, Y increases
to 255 as you rise to the top. This defines the first
quadrant of the standard Cartesian coordinate system.
Each picture element (pixel) may be black, white, red,
green, blue, yellow, cyan, or magenta (any combination
of the three primary colors).

The display to be used is programmed to imitate the
standard. To facilitate this procedure, four standard
display modes are defined. Mode 0 requests the max-
imum possible resolution while mode 1 requests the max-
imum choice of colors. This allows for displays, such as
the Cromemco Dazzler, which offer a trade-off between
resolution and color. Two additional modes provide the
ability to deliberately select larger pixels. Mode 2 is 128
by 128 resolution and mode 3 is 64 by 64 resolution.
Regardless of the resolution actually used, the coordinate
system remains at 256 by 256, as defined above. General-
purpose applications programs can check to determine
the available resolution and range of colors, whether the
display is black and white or color, whether or not
individual points can be erased, and if dual-buffered
animation is available.

The Standard Functions

A five command repertoire is generally considered to
be the bare minimum for a general-purpose graphics
display. These commands provide all the output
capabilities normally found on commercial nonintelligent
graphics terminals, such as the Tektronics 4010. The
routines are:

- PAGE:** Next page, ie,
erase the entire
screen.
- CURSOR (X,Y):** Position the cur-
sor at the point
X,Y.
- DOT:** Set the pixel
defined by the
cursor position to
the currently
selected color.
- LINE (X,Y):** Set the pixels
along the line
connecting the
current cursor
position to the
point X,Y to the
currently selected
color.
- CHAR (VAL):** Display the
character whose
ASCII value is
VAL at the cur-
rent cursor posi-
tion using the
currently selected
color.

To facilitate matching the hardware requirements of many displays, an initialization command is also required:

INITG: Initialize the graphics subsystem.

Finally, a 2-buffer animation command is included for interactive graphics and game playing:

ANIMAT: Display the refresh buffer currently being filled and open a second refresh buffer for filling.

Display mode and current color selection are provided by the routine CHAR through ASCII control characters. Standard carriage control characters are also recognized. Display description parameters are returned by the routine INITG.

Let us now examine the function of each of the seven routines in detail.

INITG

The INITG function serves three primary functions. As an aid to the user, the display software is initialized to a standard configuration; the cursor is positioned at $X = 0$, $Y = 0$, the current color is set to white, the display is cleared, animation is disabled, and the display mode is set for maximum resolution (mode 0). Special options peculiar to the particular display are also disabled so that

general-purpose programs do not have to be aware of them to function correctly. Secondly, this routine performs any initialization functions required by the display hardware. For those displays which refresh from program memory, the routine establishes the refresh buffers. If the display is under program control, it is turned on. Finally, INITG sets the display description variables to the appropriate values. Failure to initialize the display before using any of the other functions may lead to unpredictable and potentially disastrous results.

PAGE

The PAGE function clears the display screen. No other changes are made to the state of the display: the cursor is not moved, the current color is not changed, and the display mode is unaffected.

CURSOR

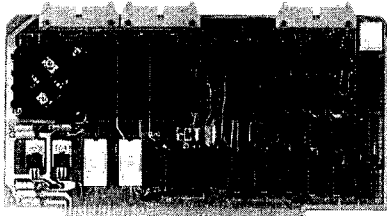
The CURSOR function sets the display cursor to a particular pixel on the screen. This establishes the initial location for the display functions which affect individual pixels on the screen. Coordinates are always interpreted on the 256 by 256 pixel matrix regardless of the actual resolution of the display. This is true even when the display mode is deliberately set to a lower resolution mode.

When in a lower resolution mode, the low-order bits of the position requested are ignored. For example, when in 128 by 128 resolution mode (mode 2), the points (8,4), (8,5), (9,4), and (9,5) will all be interpreted as the same pixel (the low-order bit in each coordinate has no effect).

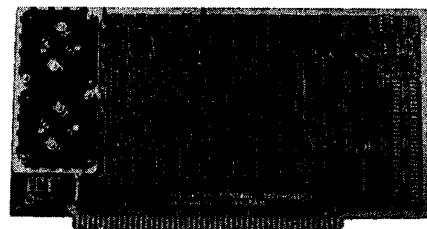
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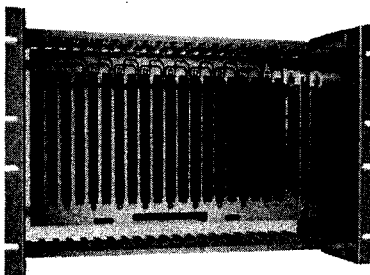
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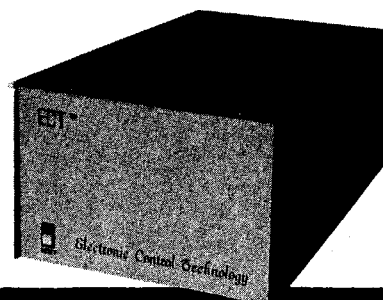
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MAXR	NUL	00	Display Mode Selection
MAXC	SOH	01	Maximum resolution
R128	STX	02	Maximum colors
R64	ETX	03	128 by 128
RXXX	EOT	04	64 by 64
			Undefined
BS	BS	08	Carriage Control
HT	HT	09	Backspace (optional)
LF	LF	0A	Horizontal tab (optional)
VT	VT	0B	Line feed
FF	FF	0C	Vertical tab (optional)
CR	CR	0D	Form feed
			Carriage return
SO	SO	0E	Character Style
SI	SI	0F	Undefined
			Undefined
BLK	DLE	10	Current Color Selection
RED	DC1	11	Black
BLU	DC2	12	Red
MAG	DC3	13	Blue
GRN	DC4	14	Magenta
YEL	NAK	15	Green
CYN	SYN	16	Yellow
WHI	ETB	17	Cyan
N	ETX	18	White
O	to	to	Eight
E	GS	1F	optional colors

Table 1: Standard control character functions.

When changing between display modes, cursor position is not required to be maintained by the interface software. To avoid erroneous results, all changes to display mode should be followed by a cursor positioning command.

DOT

The DOT function sets the display pixel indicated by the cursor to the currently selected color. With some displays in low-resolution mode, several physical pixels may be affected. For example, the Matrox ALT-256*2 turns on (or off, as selected) sixteen hardware pixels for every "dot" when in a 64 by 64 resolution mode.

LINE

The LINE function generates the line connecting the pixel defined by the cursor to the pixel requested. Both endpoints are included in the line. Therefore, a line of zero length is logically equivalent to a call to DOT. Care must be exercised when erasing or otherwise changing the color of a line, since the pixels in a line from pixel A to pixel B may differ from those used when the line is drawn from pixel B to pixel A. When lines are drawn in lower resolution modes, the pixels used are the size made by the DOT function at that resolution.

CHAR

The CHAR function provides the capability to display alphanumeric as well as graphical data. In addition, control characters provide limited cursor positioning and control over display mode and current color as shown in table 1. Control characters that are not recognized are ignored. Note that form feed positions the cursor only—it does not erase the screen.

Characters are positioned so that the cursor defines the

lower left corner of a normal character (characters with descenders will extend below the cursor position). The cursor is left at the next character position. No check is made to detect characters off the edge of the screen. Parity is ignored. Lowercase characters, if not supported, are converted to uppercase.

ANIMAT

The function ANIMAT provides for flicker-free changes in the display by permitting the user to load one refresh buffer while displaying another. Each call to ANIMAT displays the buffer which is being filled, and opens another buffer for filling. This buffer exchange is performed at the start of the next vertical blanking period. Those displays without the ability to utilize multiple buffers but which *do* allow the erasing of individual pixels (such as the Matrox ALT-256**2) will just delay until the start of the next vertical blanking period. In either case, no changes are made to either buffer, and the cursor position is maintained. The ANIMAT function does nothing on those displays which support neither double buffering nor selective erase. To return to normal mode where updates are displayed in real time, it is necessary to reinitialize with INITG.

Standard Calling Sequences

To encourage maximum software interchange, two standard programming language protocols are currently defined. The first protocol is for 8080 and Z80 assembly language users, the second is for BASIC programs. By following one of these protocols, a program written for one display will work with any other display of sufficient resolution and color flexibility. The standard display and function definitions described previously are common to both protocols.

8080 Assembler Protocol

The 8080 assembly language interface is loaded into hexadecimal memory locations 0104 to 04FF. This provides a standard location for the package, regardless of memory size. To avoid conflict with programs requiring use of the restart (RST) instruction and most popular 8080 monitors, a lower starting address is not used. The first 21 bytes (hexadecimal 0104 to 0118) are the entry points to the different routines, as indicated in table 2. All arguments are passed to the called routine in register pair HL, except for the CHAR routine, which uses register A. The contents of all registers and flags are preserved, except for the INITG routine.

Routine INITG is called with the address of the first unused memory location above the program, to indicate

Routine	Vector Address (hexadecimal)	Parameters
INITG	104	HL = first free address
PAGE	107	Returns display description in HL
CURSOR	10A	None
DOT	10D	H = X coordinate; L = Y coordinate
LINE	110	None
CHAR	113	H = X end coordinate; L = Y end coordinate
ANIMAT	116	A = ASCII value of character
		None

Table 2: 8080 assembly language standard vector addresses.

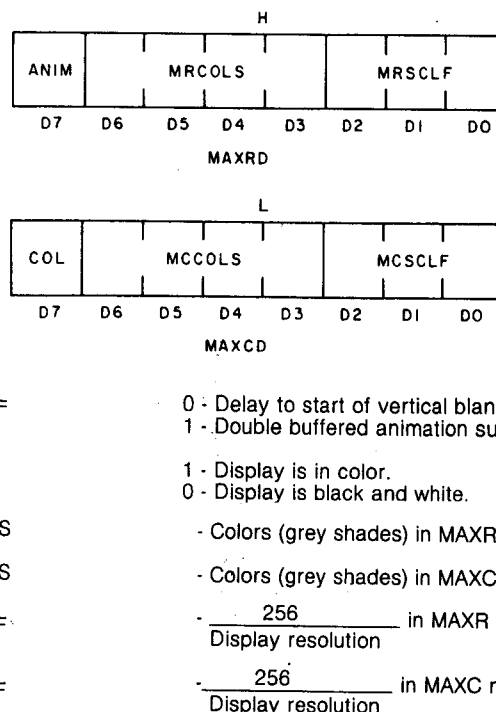


Figure 2: 8080 assembly language standard display parameter fields.

available space for refresh buffers. While some displays do not require this information, it should always be included for compatibility. The address in HL is replaced by INITG with a 2-byte description of the display being used (all other registers and flags are left undisturbed). The format for these bytes is given in figure 2. The colors and scale factor fields which are available in register H describe the display when maximum resolution is selected; the same fields in register L describe the maximum color selection mode.

The available colors field gives the number of colors, other than white, to which a point can be written. If the field is zero, it means that the way to erase what has been written is to page the display. The scale factor field indicates the physical size of display points in standard coordinates. If the X and Y scale factors differ, the larger of the two is used. For example, if the display had 64 lines with 100 points on each, the scale factor would be four, based on the Y axis resolution.

The animation and color fields apply to all display modes. If the animation field is one, the display supports double buffered animation. If this field is zero, it is impossible to build one display scene while another is displaying. In this case the ANIMAT routine is a delay until the start of vertical blanking. The color/black and white field is self-explanatory: if it is one, the display is in color; otherwise it is black, grey, and white. Note that this field has no real meaning if the number of available colors is zero or one.

BASIC Protocol

For maximum flexibility and machine independence, a BASIC language usage protocol is also defined. Table 3 summarizes the commands and their arguments. Display initialization (IGR command) sets the variables A1

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Mnemonic	Function	Arguments
IGR	INITG	None
PAG	PAGE	None
CUR	CURSOR	<X>, <Y>
DOT	DOT	None
LIN	LINE	<X>, <Y>
CHA	CHAR	<numeric ASCII value>
ANM	ANIMAT	None
TXT	PRINT	Equivalent to print except on display

Variable Name	Display Parameter
A1	X scale factor, high-resolution mode
A2	Y scale factor, high-resolution mode
A3	Available colors, high-resolution mode
A4	X scale factor, maximum color mode
A5	Y scale factor, maximum color mode
A6	Available colors, maximum color mode
A7	Animation support
A8	Grey scale

Table 3: BASIC standard protocols.

through A8 to reflect the display parameters. The scale factors A1, A2, A4, and A5, normally given exactly, are permitted to be rounded off to the nearest integer. These variables are ordinary BASIC variables and may be used and set as desired by the program.

The additional command TXT provides the user with the full flexibility of the BASIC PRINT command. Text and variables are displayed using the formats requested in the TXT statement starting at any location on the screen by using CUR to position the cursor. All characters are displayed using the current color.

Function Algorithms

To facilitate development of this standard, the algorithms used to produce the Matrox ALT-256**2 and the Cromemco Dazzler implementations of the 8080 assembly language standard are provided here. Of particular interest to most readers will be the line and character generation algorithms, which are independent of the hardware configuration of the display used.

For those readers not familiar with Nassi-Schneiderman design charts, a brief explanation is in order. More detailed information can be found in the original article published in the *SIGPLAN Notices* (August 1973). The Nassi-Schneiderman chart is a stylized flowchart for structured programming. By supporting only standard structured programming constructs (see figure 3) and not GOTOs and off page connectors, the chart forces the software designer to avoid the convolutions and obscurities in logic which make programs excruciating to debug and impossible to maintain.

The INITG and DOT routines are the only routines which normally require extensive adaptation to suit different displays. Since the Matrox ALT-256**2 is the only currently available low-cost display which is not direct memory access (DMA) refreshed from program memory and an enhanced 8080 assembly language package that is compatible with this standard is available from Matrox, the special considerations required to program I/O port driven displays are not included in this article. For direct memory access displays, the only other adaptations normally required are the refresh memory size parameter in

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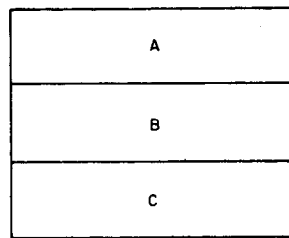
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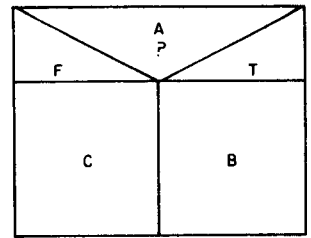
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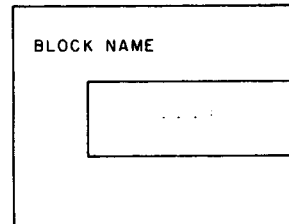
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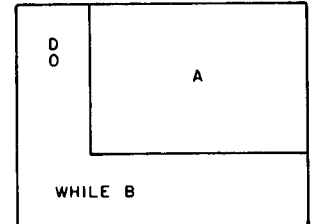
SEQUENTIAL EXECUTION



IF A THEN B ELSE C
(F = FALSE, T = TRUE)



BEGIN.... END



DO A WHILE B

Figure 3: Nassi-Schneiderman charts, a system of stylized flowcharts which are designed for use with structured programming techniques. Each of the charts physically resembles the program section it emulates. The charts are read from top to bottom.

PAGE, the color and mode select controls in CHAR, and the scale factors used by the internal subroutine SCALE.

INITG Logic

Initialization is normally required for both hardware and software (see figure 4). The first step is to establish the refresh buffer. This requires taking the address which defines the top of the user program and moving up to the first address legal for refresh buffers. This address is needed by other routines, as well as for starting the display hardware. The different variables and flags are then set to the required values, and the page routine is called to clear the screen. The appropriate display

Legal Refresh Address	
F	T
Move up to next legal address	OK
Save refresh buffer address	
Set Animation Inactive flag	
Set Cursor to X = 0, Y = 0	
Set Current Color to White	
Set Mode to MAXR	
Turn off all nonstandard options	
Call PAGE to clear the screen	
Start the display hardware	

Figure 4: The INITG function. INITG serves three purposes as an aid to the user: it initializes the system, performs any initialization functions required by the display software, and sets the display description variables to the appropriate values.

ADR = Refresh buffer address	
CNT = Refresh buffer length	
D	Set [ADR] to zero (black)
O	ADR = ADR + 1
	CNT = CNT - 1
UNTIL CNT equals 0	

Figure 5: The PAGE function. PAGE is used to clear the display screen.

CURSOR

Call SCALE to interpret coordinates
Set the software cursor to the scaled values.

Figure 6: The CURSOR function which sets the display cursor to a particular pixel on the screen.

description is generated, and control is returned to the calling program.

PAGE Logic

The PAGE command clears all the memory used for display refresh (see figure 5). The most general algorithm, and the one that is charted, is clear byte, increment address, decrement byte count, and test for done. In machines with indexed addressing, the byte count can

double as an index register. In machines with a memory-to-memory block transfer instruction, it is usually possible to clear one byte and transfer it to all of the display refresh memory.

CURSOR Logic

The CURSOR routine must convert from standard coordinates to software coordinates (see figure 6). Software coordinates are required by the LINE and CHAR algorithms to have a one-to-one correspondence with the actual display pixels being used. CHAR further requires X coordinates to increase to the right and Y coordinates to increase to the top. Since LINE must also scale its arguments, CURSOR and LINE can usually share the same internal scaling routine for efficiency.

DOT Logic

DOT is the only routine (other than PAGE) which actually modifies the refresh memory (see figure 7). Both LINE and CHAR use it to modify the desired pixels in the display. This routine is extremely hardware-dependent. Indeed, one of the primary reasons for defining this protocol was protection from differing display idiosyncracies. The DOT routine must translate the coordinates in the software cursor to the actual corresponding bits in memory. Remember that the software cursor is scaled so that a unit change in a coordinate is equivalent to the adjacent pixel. The logic presented here assumes a linear scan through refresh memory to generate the entire display, a line at a time, with the top line displayed first. Note that this algorithm is not adequate for the Dazzler, nor is it suitable for self-refreshed displays like the

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DOT

MAXR MODE																			
F	T																		
Determine the Mode in use and proceed in the same manner as MAXR to calculate the address of the affected byte and obtain a mask of the affected bits.	<p>Calculate the address of the affected byte</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Convert Y coordinate to Line Number</td> </tr> <tr> <td>$Y_OFFSET = \text{Line Number} \cdot \text{Bytes/line}$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>$X_OFFSET = X \text{ coordinate} / \text{Pixels per byte}$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>$\text{Address} = \text{Base address} + X \text{ offset} + Y\text{offset}$</td> </tr> </table>	Convert Y coordinate to Line Number	$Y_OFFSET = \text{Line Number} \cdot \text{Bytes/line}$	$X_OFFSET = X \text{ coordinate} / \text{Pixels per byte}$	$\text{Address} = \text{Base address} + X \text{ offset} + Y\text{offset}$														
Convert Y coordinate to Line Number																			
$Y_OFFSET = \text{Line Number} \cdot \text{Bytes/line}$																			
$X_OFFSET = X \text{ coordinate} / \text{Pixels per byte}$																			
$\text{Address} = \text{Base address} + X \text{ offset} + Y\text{offset}$																			
	<p>Determine the affected bits in the byte</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="2">X even</th> </tr> <tr> <th>F</th> <th>T</th> </tr> <tr> <td>MASK = 01010101</td> <td>MASK = 10101010</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">X/2 even</th> </tr> <tr> <th>F</th> <th>T</th> </tr> <tr> <td>MASK = MASK AND 00110011</td> <td>MASK = MASK AND 11001100</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">X/4 even</th> </tr> <tr> <th>F</th> <th>T</th> </tr> <tr> <td>MASK = MASK AND 00001111</td> <td>MASK = MASK AND 11110000</td> </tr> </table>	X even		F	T	MASK = 01010101	MASK = 10101010	X/2 even		F	T	MASK = MASK AND 00110011	MASK = MASK AND 11001100	X/4 even		F	T	MASK = MASK AND 00001111	MASK = MASK AND 11110000
X even																			
F	T																		
MASK = 01010101	MASK = 10101010																		
X/2 even																			
F	T																		
MASK = MASK AND 00110011	MASK = MASK AND 11001100																		
X/4 even																			
F	T																		
MASK = MASK AND 00001111	MASK = MASK AND 11110000																		
<p>Modify refresh memory to current color at addressed pixel</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Temp = MASK AND [Address]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MASK = MASK AND Color</td> </tr> <tr> <td>[Address] = Temp OR MASK</td> </tr> </table>		Temp = MASK AND [Address]	MASK = MASK AND Color	[Address] = Temp OR MASK															
Temp = MASK AND [Address]																			
MASK = MASK AND Color																			
[Address] = Temp OR MASK																			

Figure 7: The DOT function which sets the display pixel indicated by the cursor to the currently selected color.

LINE

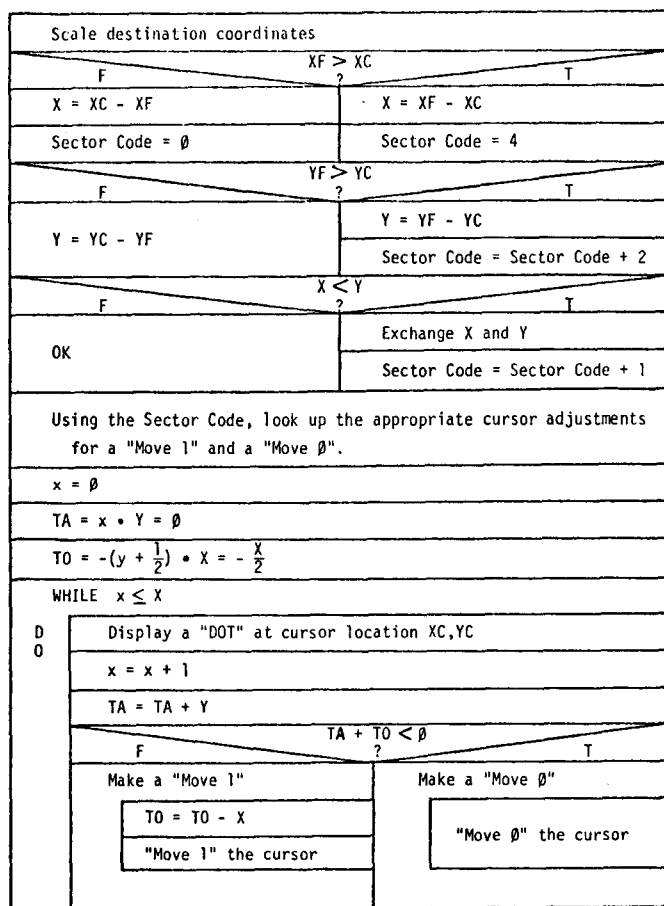


Figure 8: The LINE function which generates the line connecting the pixel defined by the cursor to the pixel requested.

Matrox ALT-256**2. The former divides the display into four quadrants, each in its own block of memory with every byte describing points on more than one line. The modifications to the algorithm are explained in the sample implementation, and need not concern the non-Dazzler owner. The Matrox's refresh memory is directly addressed by X,Y coordinates and no conversion is required.

The first step is to determine the address of the byte which contains the requested point. The cursor Y coordinate is converted to a display line number which, when multiplied by the number of bytes per line, gives the offset into the refresh buffer of the first byte on the line. The X coordinate corresponds directly to the desired point along the line. Dividing the X coordinate by the number of points in each byte gives the offset from the first byte in the line. Taking the base address of the refresh buffer (set up by INITG) and adding the offsets to the desired line in the buffer and the desired point on the line yields the address of the byte which requires modification.

The second step is to determine which bits in the byte correspond to the desired pixel. The hypothetical display depicted by the Nassi-Schneiderman chart has eight pixels in each byte. The selected bits are then changed to match the current color, and the refresh memory is updated to reflect the revised point. An effective procedure is to generate a mask which contains ones at bit positions

corresponding to the addressed point, and zeros elsewhere in the byte. The byte of refresh memory is ANDed with the complement of the mask to delete the old contents. The mask itself is then ANDed with the bit pattern for a byte with every pixel. The current color and the result are ORed into the cleaned up byte of refresh memory.

LINE Logic

Perhaps the most crucial facet of any graphics system is its line generator (see figure 8). Before introducing the actual algorithm used, it may prove beneficial to discuss its theoretical development.

We wish to generate an arbitrary line from a point (XC, YC) to a point (XF, YF) (see figure 9). The goal is to determine those discrete points (x_n, y_n) which best approximate the desired line.

To simplify the derivation, we will only consider generating a line from point (0,0) to point (X,Y), where X is greater than or equal to Y and both are greater than or equal to 0 (figure 10). (This situation is general because any arbitrary line may be rotated and translated to match the proposed conditions.) Under these conditions, there is a point along the line for every value of x ($0 \leq x \leq X$), and for every value of x there is only one value of y. Closer examination reveals that for any value of x, the y value for the following point $(x + 1)$ will either remain unchanged or increase by 1. No other value of y is possible. Furthermore, it can be shown that the decision to increment y for the next x is based solely on whether the point $(x + 1, y + \frac{1}{2})$ lies above or below the line. If it lies above the line, y remains unchanged. If it lies below the line, y is incremented. In the event $(x + 1, y + \frac{1}{2})$ is exactly on the line, either option is correct. For convenience, "on the line" is arbitrarily treated as equivalent to "above the line."

Assuming that we have a method to determine the position of the point $(x + 1, y + \frac{1}{2})$ relative to the desired line, we can generate an optimal approximation of the line from (0,0) to (X,Y), where $X \geq Y \geq 0$, using the following algorithm:

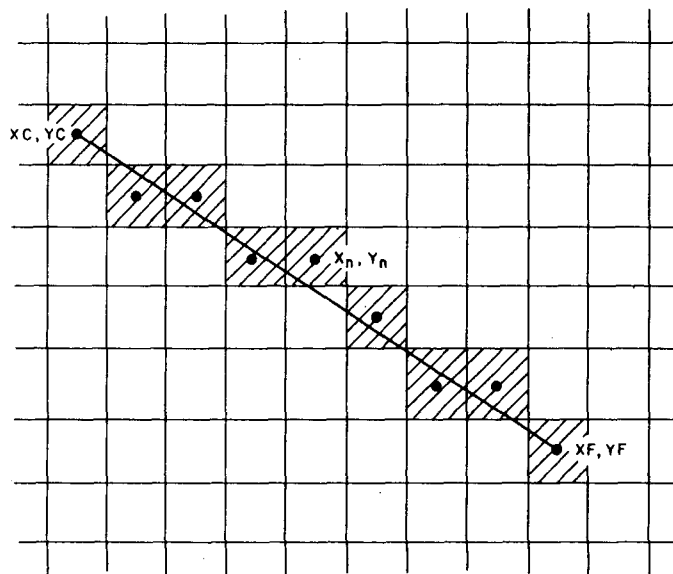


Figure 9: Generating an arbitrary line.

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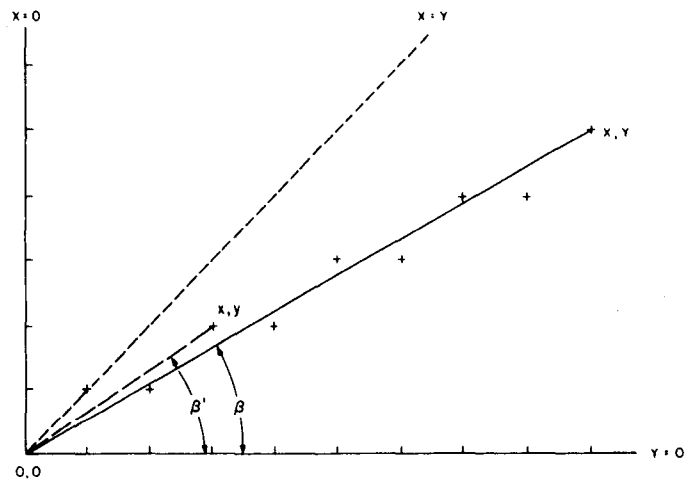


Figure 10: Simplified line generation.

- 1) Initialize $x \leftarrow 0, y \leftarrow 0$.
- 2) Display the point (x,y) .
- 3) Test for done: $x = X$?
- 4) Calculate the position of the point $(x + 1, y + \frac{1}{2})$ relative to the desired line.
- 5) Set dy to 1 if below the line; 0 if on or above.
- 6) Calculate the next point:
 $x \leftarrow x + 1$
 $y \leftarrow y + dy$
- 7) Go to step 2.

There are only two obstacles to overcome before implementing this algorithm: step 4 and the restrictive initial conditions. Let us examine each in turn.

A brief excursion into trigonometry is required to evaluate step 4. Referring to figure 10, if we call the angle between the desired line and the X axis θ , and the angle formed by the current point (x,y) the origin and the X axis θ' , then if (x,y) lies above the desired line, $\theta < \theta'$. Conversely, if (x,y) lies below the desired line, $\theta > \theta'$. Of course, if the two coincide, $\theta = \theta'$. We know from trigonometry that for angles in the first quadrant, the greater the angle, the greater its tangent. We also know that the tangent of θ is $\frac{Y}{X}$, while that of θ' is $\frac{y}{x}$. Therefore, we can easily determine the position of any point relative to the desired line by comparing the quotients $\frac{Y}{X}$ and $\frac{y}{x}$.

Unfortunately, performing division on microcomputers is a time-consuming process. Using the properties of inequalities to eliminate the divisions, we can build a decision table (see table 4) which requires only multiplication. Returning to our original algorithm, we set dy to 1 if:

$$(x + 1) \times Y > X \times (y + \frac{1}{2})$$

and to 0 if it is not. Further advantage can be gained by realizing that at each iteration the product on the left side of the inequality increases by Y , while the right either remains the same or increases by X . By remembering the

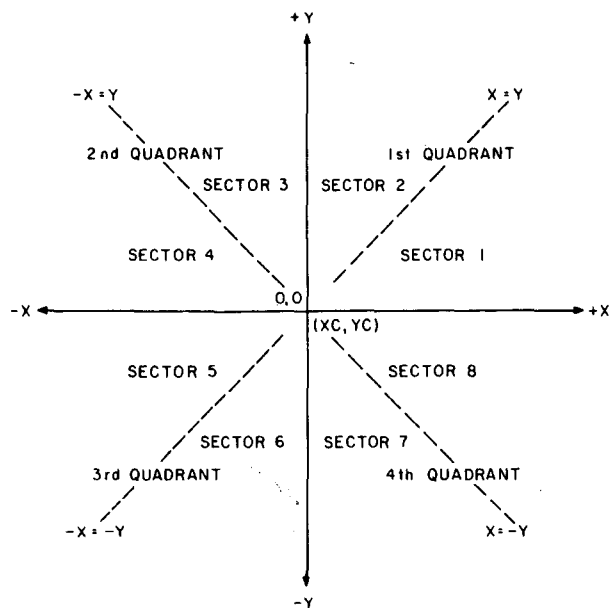


Figure 11: Quadrant and sector definition.

products from the previous iteration, and whether or not y is incremented, the multiplication can be reduced to addition. For maximum efficiency, the right-hand product can be maintained negated so that the comparison can be made with a single addition.

The restriction that the line runs from (0,0) to a point (X,Y) with $X \geq Y \geq 0$ requires the use of coordinate translations, rotations, and reflections. The first step is to translate the line so that it starts at (0,0). Since the line originates at the cursor, we would traditionally subtract the cursor from the other endpoint to obtain its relative position. However, because a 256 by 256 display does not give us room for a sign-bit in an 8-bit byte, it is first necessary to rotate the line to the first quadrant and then calculate the magnitude of the endpoint displacements from the cursor.

While all these coordinate transformations may seem complicated, the actual implementation is quite simple. Consider the command to generate the line from the current cursor position (XC,YC) to a final point (XF,YF). The first step is to compare XF to XC. If $XF \geq XC$ then we are in the first or fourth quadrant (see figure 11); otherwise, we are in the second or third. Similarly, if $YF \geq YC$, we are in the first or second quadrant; otherwise, the third or fourth quadrant. By combining the two results, the quadrant is uniquely determined, and we can proceed to determine the magnitude of the X and Y displacements, XM and YM, as shown in table 5. Finally XM and YM are compared to determine the exact sector.

The easiest technique for remembering this multiple logical decision is to weight the results of each decision and check the sum. Each sector is then assigned an equivalent weight, and the sector parameter table is reordered accordingly. Column 2 of table 6 applies a weight of 4 to $(XF > XC)$, 2 to $(YF > YC)$ and 1 to $(YF > XP)$.

Once the sector is determined, we have all the information required to construct any arbitrary line. Referring to

	Above	On	Below
Angle Relationship	$\theta < \theta'$	$\theta = \theta'$	$\theta > \theta'$
Tangent Relationship	$\frac{Y}{X} < \frac{y}{x}$	$\frac{Y}{X} = \frac{y}{x}$	$\frac{Y}{X} > \frac{y}{x}$
Relationship after Multiplying through by x.X	$xY < Xy$	$xY = Xy$	$xY > Xy$
Result of $xY - Xy$	Negative	Zero	Positive

Table 4: Point position relative to a line.

Quadrant	XM	YM
1	$XF - XC$	$YF - YC$
2	$XC - XF$	$YF - YC$
3	$XC - XF$	$YC - YF$
4	$XF - XC$	$YC - YF$

Table 5: Component magnitudes in the four quadrants.

Sector	Sector Weight	X	Y	Move 0 x incr	y incr	Move 1 x incr	y incr
1	6	XM	YM	+1	0	+1	+1
2	7	YM	XM	0	+1	+1	+1
3	3	YM	XM	0	+1	-1	+1
4	2	XM	YM	-1	0	-1	+1
5	0	XM	YM	-1	0	-1	-1
6	1	YM	XM	0	-1	-1	-1
7	5	YM	XM	0	-1	+1	-1
8	4	XM	YM	+1	0	+1	-1

Table 6: Coordinate equivalents for each sector.

step 5 of the fundamental sector 1 algorithm, we call setting dy to 0 "move 0," setting dy to 1 "move 1," and generate the equivalence chart in table 6. As the algorithm steps along in transformed coordinates, it uses the "move 0" and "move 1" to modify the cursor position using X and Y increments appropriate for the sector the line is actually in.

CHAR Logic

One of the most common formats for displaying characters is the 5 by 7 matrix of points (see figure 12). However, not many people realize why 5 by 7 is the smallest common size. The limiting width is, of course, the minimum number of points capable of displaying the three separate parallel lines required for the letters M and W. This sets the minimum possible width to 5, but why must 7 be the minimum height? The answer is, it need not be! However, human engineering studies have indicated that the average person finds it easier to read characters which are proportioned the same as in standard printing. Ratios of width to height far removed from the "normal" 0.75 increase fatigue and error rates.

To generate easily read lowercase characters, even larger matrices are required. This is a result of the greater complexity and finer detail of the lowercase characters. The full ASCII character set can be generated with a 7 by 9 matrix if provision is made for characters with descenders (g, j, p, etc). This requires the use of an extra

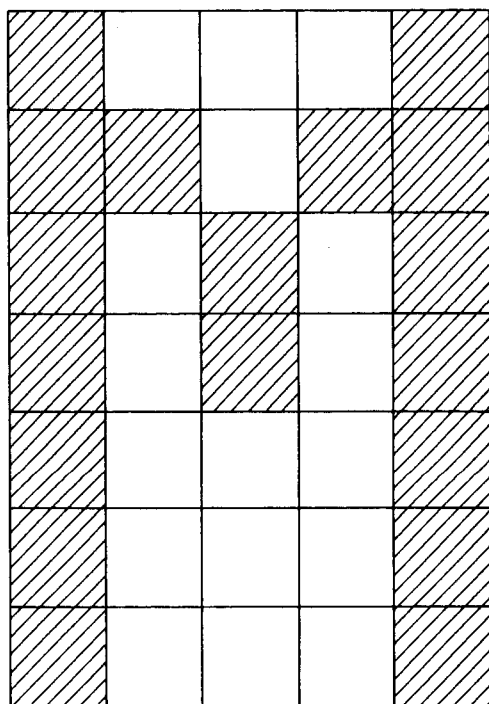


Figure 12: Typical character generation.

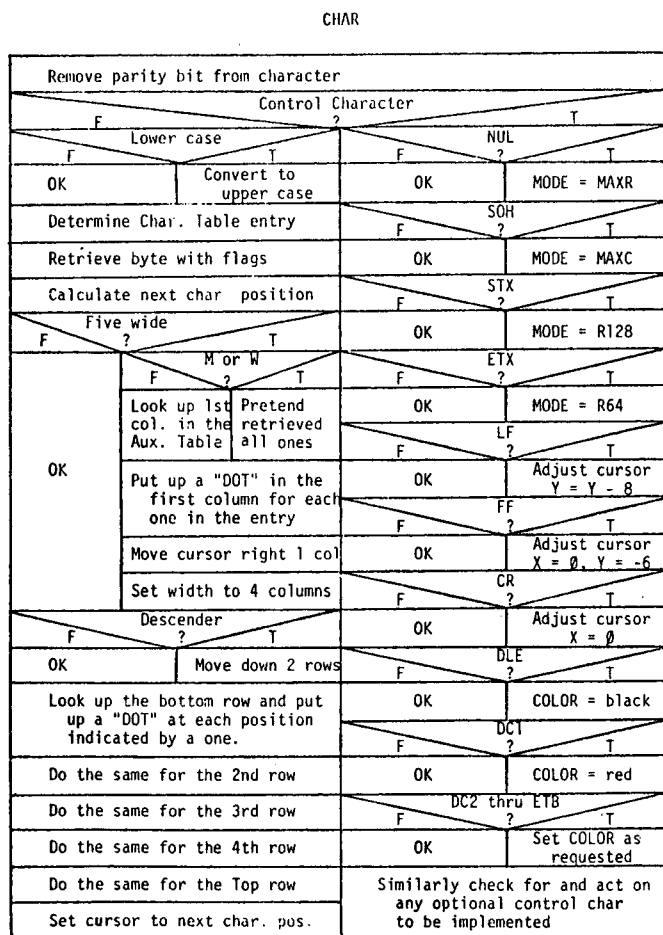


Figure 13: The CHAR function which provides the capability to display alphanumeric as well as graphical data.

Char Size	LC	Char/Line (256 by 256)	Lines/Page (256 by 256)	Memory For Tables (bytes)
9 x 11	Y	25	18	1200
7 x 9	Y	32	21	864
5 x 7	N	42	32	320
4 x 5*	N	64	32	192

*See text

Table 7: Effects of differently sized character matrices.

bit to determine if the matrix is displayed normally or shifted down two positions. As far as the display is concerned, the character uses a 7 by 11 matrix of display points. Larger display matrices can be used for greater legibility and varying character fonts, but even a 7 by 11 character matrix severely restricts the total number of characters that will fit on the low-resolution displays for which this standard is designed. If even one row of blank points is left between adjacent characters, then only sixteen 7 by 9 characters will fit across a 128-wide display. Memory requirements for large matrix character pattern storage are also severe. The table space required is directly proportional to the area of the matrix (see table 7).

A character matrix size less than the "absolute minimum" 5 by 7 was desirable, since even 5 by 7 characters require 320 bytes for their lookup table. Readable versions of 58 of the 64 uppercase printing ASCII characters can be generated within a 4 by 5 matrix. The remaining 6 characters (#, \$, &, %, M, and W) fit in a 5 by 5 matrix. Since these are normally considered wide characters, their unity width-to-height ratio is not objectionable.

To simplify table lookups and the special handling of 5 wide characters, 3 bytes are used for each character. Twenty bits are used for the 4 by 5 display matrix; the four extra bits are used as flags to define the specific parameters for each character. Two flag-bits are used to indicate the width of the character. Proportional spacing also fits the maximum number of characters into any given space. The third flag-bit is used by 5 wide characters to indicate whether the first column is all ones (M and W), or must be retrieved from an auxiliary lookup table (#, \$, %, and &). The remaining flag is used to indicate descending characters (., ; and _). These characters are displayed two positions lower than their matrices indicate. Each character is therefore displayed in an n by 7 display area, where n ranges from 2 to 5.

The basic character generation algorithm (figure 13) is applicable to any size character matrix, whether the character is stored by column (more efficient for 5 by 7 and 6 by 8 matrix characters), or by row (more efficient for variable 4 by 5, 7 by 9, and 8 by 11). If the character set being used does not include lowercase, it is necessary to shift lowercase characters to their uppercase equivalents. Comparing the ASCII value of the character to 32 separates control characters for special handling.

The character table is ordered by ASCII value and lookup is done by indexing on the ASCII value requested. Since the first 32 ASCII characters are control characters,

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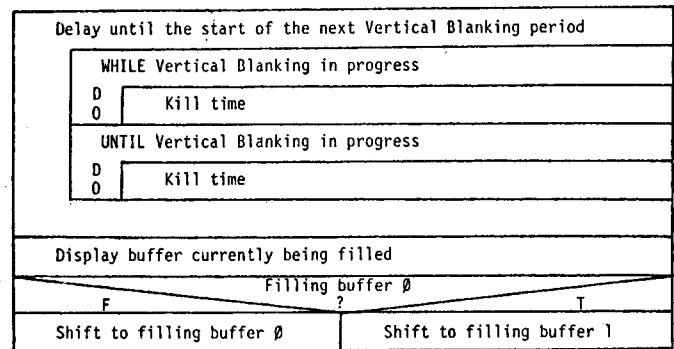


Figure 14: The ANIMAT function which provides for flicker-free changes in the display by permitting the user to load one refresh buffer while displaying another.

the physical contents of the table start with character 32 (blank). To index into the table, the ASCII value of the first table entry is subtracted from the value requested. This index value is then multiplied by the number of bytes per character, and the product is added to the address of the first character in the table in order to obtain the address of the first byte of the character desired. The cursor is then sequenced through the character matrix, turning on the points indicated. Only the points actually making up the character are affected, so background data is not erased and an overprint results.

Control characters are handled separately. Mode and color changes will depend on the DOT routine. Since these will be overly hardware-dependent, their implementation is left as an exercise to the reader. Carriage control characters modify the cursor position without otherwise affecting the display. Any unrecognized characters should be ignored.

ANIMAT Logic

The first requirement of the ANIMAT logic is to wait for vertical blanking to start (see figure 14). Most displays provide an input port with a status-bit which indicates when vertical blanking is in progress. By delaying until the status-bit indicates normal scan, then delaying until it indicates vertical blanking in progress, we are assured of a full vertical blanking period being available. If the display being programmed does not support changing the location of the refresh buffer by software controls, the routine is finished.

Displays in which refresh buffer locations can be changed are programmed to provide double buffering. After waiting for the vertical blanking period, the refresh buffer currently being filled is put on display. The alternate buffer is then opened for filling. Note that this algorithm is valid whether the buffer being filled is displayed (first call to ANIMAT after an INITG) or is being filled while another buffer is being displayed (all subsequent calls to ANIMAT).

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Technical Forum

A Proposed Graphics Software Standard

Part 2

Dr Vincent C Jones, 1913 Sheely Dr, Ft Collins CO 80526

Sample Implementation

In part 1, the framework for a proposed graphics software standard was discussed.

An implementation of the 8080 assembly language protocol for use with the Cromemco Dazzler (listing 1) illustrates how the algorithms and standards presented translate into working software. Except for a few instances where the architecture of the 8080 or Dazzler allowed substantial simplification, the program code corresponds exactly to the Nassi-Schneiderman charts in part 1. The major deviations are in the handling of control characters in the routine CHAR, affected byte address calculation in DOT, and the termination condition in PAGE.

The software starts by defining the standard entry points. The Dazzler is assumed to be jumpered to use ports 16 and 17 (octal), the Cromemco default. If you own a Dazzler and it uses different ports, the I/O (input/output) commands in INITG, CHAR, and ANIMAT will need modification.

8080/Dazzler INITG

The first step in all these routines is to preserve any registers affected. In this case, HL is not saved because its contents will be replaced by the display description parameters.

The Dazzler requires the refresh buffer to start at an even multiple of 512. No test is made to check and see if the address provided is valid; instead, an algorithm that converts any address to a valid address and a valid address to itself is used. The refresh buffer address calculated is then stored in the two bytes labeled RBUF. Placing all the variables in a single section of memory is not only good programming practice, it also permits efficient setting of defaults by using register indirect addressing. The call to the CHAR routine with zero accumulator sets the display mode to MAXR and takes care of outputting the required controls to the Dazzler's Color/Mode port.

After calling PAGE to clear the screen, the Dazzler is finally turned on. The high-byte of the refresh buffer address is retrieved from memory and rotated into the bit position expected by the Dazzler. The OUT instruction starts the display, if it is not already on. The final step, before restoring register values, is to load the appropriate parameter description into HL. Hexadecimal 8AFC indi-

Text continued on page 176

Listing on page 84

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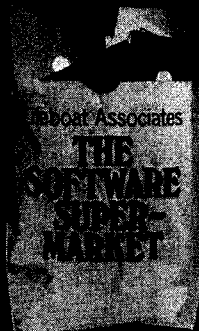
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Text continued from page 82:

cates that double buffered animation is available, MAXC mode has 15 colors and 64 by 64 resolution, the display is in color, and MAXR mode has one color and 128 by 128 resolution.

8080/Dazzler Page

The PAGE routine takes advantage of the hardware requirement that refresh buffers start only on even page boundaries and are 2 K bytes long. The low-byte of the address is used for a free zero, while the HL register is incremented until H corresponds to the high-byte of the first address beyond the buffer.

8080/Dazzler Cursor

Since the same scaling routine is used for both CURSOR and LINE, CURSOR becomes an almost empty routine. Aside from preserving registers, all it does is call CU000 with the coordinates presented, and save the scaled result as the new software cursor position XPOS, YPOS.

The MODE byte engages in some trickery to indicate the desired mode efficiently. The numeric value associated with the mode is rotated right one bit position. The resultant value can be incremented up to 126 times and still remain negative if in MAXC or R64 mode, and positive if in MAXR or R128 mode. Since MAXR on the Dazzler is 128 by 128 resolution, and MAXC is 64 by 64, we have a simple test to determine which mode is in use.

The scale routine CU000 divides X and Y by 2, checks to see if R128 or MAXR is selected, and divides again if they are not.

8080/Dazzler DOT

This routine tends to be somewhat complex due to the convoluted mapping from bits in the byte to points on the screen used by the Dazzler in 128 by 128 resolution mode, and the dividing of the screen into four quadrants. Fortunately, if the 128 by 128 coordinates are divided by 2, the address and mask generated by applying the algorithm for 64 by 64 resolution yields the four bits corresponding to the four possible 128 by 128 points. The low-order bits of the X and Y coordinates lost in the division are then used to select the single bit corresponding to the desired point.

The four quadrant problem is similarly solved by using the high-order bit of each coordinate to determine the quadrant, and the remaining lower order bits to find the location inside the quadrant. Since these problems are unique to the Dazzler, they will not be discussed further. The interested reader is invited to trace the logic in the program listing.

One final comment on the DOT routine is appropriate. The DOT register restore sequence is also used by LINE and CHAR. If it is changed, the appropriate modifications will also be required in LINE and CHAR.

8080/Dazzler LINE

The LINE routine is almost a block-for-block encoding of the LINE algorithm. The variable name correspondence table (table 8) is provided as a cross-reference guide, since some of the variable names used in the algorithm were modified.

Because the values of XP and YP are lost when the cursor adjustments for "move 0" and "move 1" are looked up, initialization of variables is moved to immediately after sector determination. TA and T0 are both 16-bit numbers because they represent the product of two 8-bit numbers. The only 16-bit arithmetic available on the 8080 is addition. To subtract X from T0, the 16-bit two's complement of X, DX, is calculated and added. Similarly, DY is the 16-bit representation of Y.

The cursor adjustments required for a "move 0" and a "move 1" are looked up in the table MXT. Entries are indexed by sector weight. Each entry is four bytes long (M0X, M0Y, M1X, and M1Y for the particular sector), so the sector weight is multiplied by 4 (two shifts left) and added to the starting address of the table. The correct cursor adjustments are then retrieved and stored where access is more convenient.

The only other significant change to the logic is the placement of the test for completion. For efficiency, x is compared to X immediately after the point is displayed. This has the added advantage of occurring at the only time the stack is free of temporary variables.

8080/Dazzler CHAR

The CHAR routine, with the exception of control character processing, also follows its Nassi-Schneiderman chart rigorously. The major change has been to convert to a SELECT construct the string of IFs used for control character processing. This avoids a multitude of tests which are guaranteed to fail once the character has been recognized. The processing of control characters with similar actions has also been consolidated to reduce redundancy.

As is obvious from its Nassi-Schneiderman chart, CHAR is really two independent routines with a common entry point. The only common code is the register saving and parity stripping. By pushing the address of the restore register routine onto the top of the stack, the return (RET) instruction will jump to the restore register sequence, restore all registers, and then return to the calling program.

The character matrix table is indexed by ASCII value minus 32, ie: the first entry is a blank. Since each entry is

Table 8: Variable name definitions for LINE.

8080 Software	Algorithm Description
XT	X
YT (not used)	Y
XP	X
YP	Y
XPOS or XC	XC
YPOS or YC	YC
XF	XF
YF	YF
TA	TA
T0	T0
DX	-X
DY	+Y
M0X, M0Y	Cursor adjustment for a "Move 0"
M1X, M1Y	Cursor adjustment for a "Move 1"

Note: The table numbering sequence is continued from part 1.

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three bytes long, the index must be multiplied by 3 to get the offset into the table. (The format of the character table is fully defined in the comments preceding it in the listing.) The first byte of each entry contains all the flags describing the character. The width bits are masked off and the cursor value for the next character position calculated. If the width is 6 (including a blank pixel between characters) the special subroutine to generate the first column of a 5-column wide character is executed. The descender indicator flag is then checked and the cursor is adjusted if necessary.

The normal character generation code scans the character matrix row-by-row. Whenever a 1 is encountered, the DOT routine is called to display the pixel at that location. When all five rows are completed, the cursor value is set for the next character position as calculated earlier, and control returned to the calling program.

The special subroutine used for five wide characters generates only the first column. By incrementing the cursor position, the normal character generation sequence is used to generate columns 2 through 5 instead of the normal 1 through 4.

Control character handling proceeds in three phases. Phase 1 checks for any of the four mode controls and sets MODE as required. The Dazzler hardware must also be informed so it can change mode. Phase 2 is entered if the control character is not a mode control. This is an individual check for each of the carriage control characters. Note that to get to the top line, form feed must determine what resolution is in use. Phase 3, if reached, is current color selection. The value of the control character is first

checked to verify that it actually is a color select character. If it is black, the COLOR byte is set to all zeros. If any other color, a check is made to determine if the Dazzler is in a color supporting mode (MAXC or R64). If not, COLOR is set to all ones (high-resolution white). If a color mode is in use, the bright bit is set and the low-order four bits are duplicated in the high-half of the byte to yield a COLOR byte with the desired color in both pixel fields. Conveniently, the Dazzler color bit definitions match the lower three bits of the color select character.

A word of caution is in order for anyone using the compiler hexadecimal output in the listing directly, rather than the source code. The character table contains more bytes per line than the compiler used allocates for listing purposes (hence the "D" error). One must load the character table from the source code rather than from the compiler's hexadecimal output.

8080/Dazzler ANIMAT

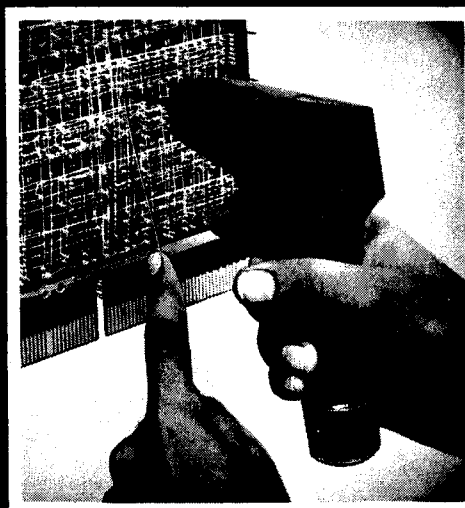
The ANIMAT routine's implementation is adequately described in the comments on the listing. The flag byte ANIM indicates whether the first 2 K buffer or the second (auxiliary) 2 K buffer is currently being filled. Note that if the buffer swap were made as soon as vertical blanking was detected rather than as soon as vertical blanking was detected following an absence of vertical blanking, it would be possible to swap buffers, modify the display, and swap buffers again—all during one vertical blanking period. The net result, of course, would be that the one buffer would never be displayed, a clearly undesirable circumstance.

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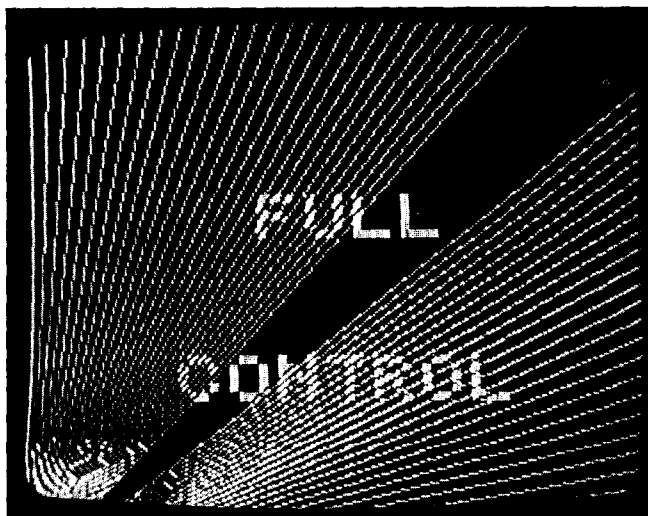


Photo 1: Display generated by demonstration program number 2 (see listing 2).

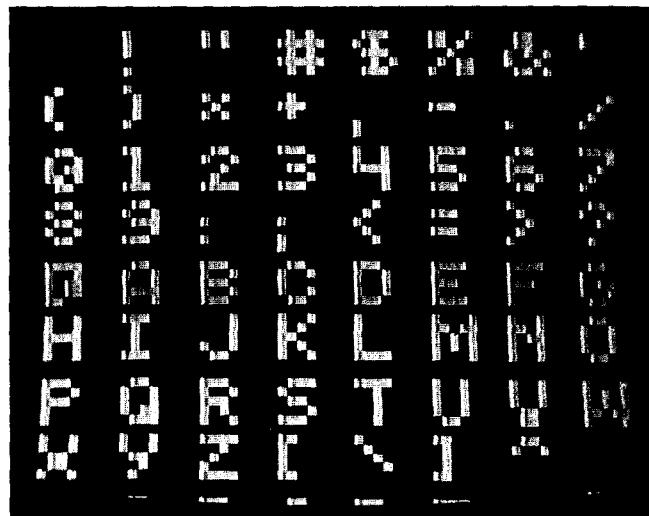


Photo 2: Display generated by demonstration program number 3 (see listing 2).

Demonstration Program

The demonstration program (see listing 2 on page 184) is provided for several purposes. Aside from demonstrating the power of the protocols, it serves as a tutorial in using the 8080 assembly language protocol and as a debugged, working user program for verifying successful implementation of the 8080 assembly language protocol. The photographs illustrating this article were all generated by this program and a Matrox ALT-256**2 display. The program contains four independent demonstrations and two utility subroutines. Equates are used to allow mnemonic references to the standard protocol's entry vectors, color controls, and display modes.

The first demonstration is a maximum-resolution exercise for the line generator. The identification message uses R64 resolution deliberately to get large characters. A series of maximum-length lines are drawn to generate the string art parabolas in each corner. The calculation of the endpoints of all the lines is simplified by the standard coordinate system. Their spacing is controlled by the value for MRSLF returned by INITG. Because of the speed of generation, a variable delay utility subroutine, PAUSE, is used to give time to observe the display. These pauses may be extended indefinitely by setting the switch register to hexadecimal 01.

The second demonstration tests the generation of all 64 of the uppercase ASCII characters. Again, advantage is taken of the lowest resolution mode to display large characters. The 64 characters are drawn eight times, once in each color, in order to demonstrate the ability to vary the display dynamically. On the last iteration, the characters are drawn in black, leaving a clear screen. Rather than verify that the display is capable of selective erase, the PAGE routine is also called. The full range of available character sizes is then displayed using R64, MAXR, and R128 display modes for one line each. All mode changes are immediately followed by absolute cursor positioning commands to avoid erroneous results.

The third demonstration cycles through all available colors with the line generator. To avoid claiming Full Color Control on a monochrome display, the color bit in MAXCD is tested. MCCOLS is then checked to see how many colors or grey shades are available. All available colors are used, one at a time, as one end of each line is moved closer to (255,255). The attempt at mode RXXX, after shifting to R64, is ignored by the package in this article. The enhanced Dazzler package available from Cromemco uses it to select the Dazzler's 16-level grey scale mode.

The final demonstration is a short animation sequence. The header is inserted in both buffers. The auxiliary buffer must be cleared first, since this function is not included in the standard. If the display is not double buffered, this will also clear any warning messages generated by the graphics package.

The algorithm used to animate the figure will work with either double buffered displays or selectively erasable displays. For the former, the figure is backed up one step and drawn in black to erase it from the non-displaying buffer (PAGE would require too much time and erase the header). The figure is then advanced two steps to get to the position past the one currently being displayed and drawn in white. Finally, ANIMAT is called to display the updated buffer, and the whole procedure is repeated until the screen is traversed. If the display is not double buffered (tested using the ANIM field in MAXRD), the ANIMAT routine is called anyway to delay until the start of vertical blanking. While the display is busy with vertical blanking, the old figure is erased and the new one displayed. If all the changes can be made before the affected memory is displayed, there will not be any flicker, and the animation will be as smooth as when double buffering is used.

The STRING subroutine is a convenient utility for displaying text strings. It calls the CHAR routine with each successive character in a string of ASCII characters until an ASCII '\$' (hexadecimal 24) is detected.

Conclusion

The availability of a powerful graphics protocol immensely simplifies the design and coding of graphics programs. The limitations imposed by forcing individual capabilities to meet a common protocol are more than made up by the availability of precisely defined functions and controls. Furthermore, the protocol is sufficiently flexible to allow the installation and use of unique display features without adversely affecting the ability to run programs designed to the standard. For example, the

package available from Matrox for its ALT-256**2 contains such enhancements as high-resolution positioning of low-resolution DOTs, choice of fixed or proportional character spacing, and up to 8 bits (256 combinations) color and/or grey scale for each pixel.

The author would like to thank John Rogers, Gary Johnsey, and especially Bart Schwartz for their help in making these articles possible.

Graphics Interface Standard for FORTRAN

The following FORTRAN subroutine definitions extend the flexibility and hardware independence of the proposed microcomputer graphics standard to FORTRAN.

INITG (XMRSCl, YMRSCl, MRCOLs, XMCSCL, YMCSCL, MCCOLs, LANIM, LCOLOR)

Initialize graphics hardware and software to maximum resolution mode with all options disabled. The screen is cleared and the current color is set to white. Eight variables are used to return the display parameters:

XMRSCl (REAL*4) X dimension of physical display points in standard coordinates, maximum resolution mode.

YMRSCl (REAL*4) — as above except Y dimension.

MRCOLs (INTEGER*2) — colors (grey shades) available in maximum resolution mode.

XMCSCL (REAL*4) — X dimension of physical display points maximum colors mode.

YMCSCL (REAL*4) — as above except Y dimension.

MCCOLs (INTEGER*2) — colors (grey shades) available in maximum color selection mode.

LANIM (LOGICAL*1) — TRUE if double buffered animation available.

LCOLOR (LOGICAL*1) — TRUE if display is in color, FALSE implies monochrome.

PAGE

Clear the screen

CURSOR (IX, IY)

Move the cursor to the coordinate position specified.

IX (INTEGER*2) — X (horizontal) coordinate desired. Value is in standard display coordinates (0 through 255). Out of range values are permitted but

may have unpredictable results.

IY (INTEGER*2) — as above except Y (vertical) coordinate desired. Lower left-hand corner of the screen is the point 0,0.

DOT

Display a dot at the current cursor position using the current color.

LINE (IX, IY)

Display a line from the current cursor position to the coordinate position specified. IX and IY are defined as in CURSOR.

CHAR (ICHAR)

The ASCII character defined by the low-order 7 bits of ICHAR is displayed at the current cursor position. Control characters are interpreted as defined in the standard to change display mode, current color, etc.

ICHAR (INTEGER*2) — the ASCII character to be interpreted or displayed.

ANIM

Program execution is delayed until the start of the next vertical blanking period. If double buffered animation is supported, buffers are not switched until immediately before returning.

WRITE (10, nnn) var, var, ...

The logical unit number 10 is available for formatted output to the display. Binary output will result in an I/O (input/output) error. Input attempts will return End of File. Rewind, endfile, and backspace operations are no-ops. The display must be initialized by INITG before writing to LUN 10. The first character output on each line is interpreted as a standard FORTRAN printer control character (' ' for single space, '0' for double space, '1' for new page, and '+' to overprint the same line).

Sample Program

```
C--- Example usage of FORTRAN Standard Graphics Calls
      LOGICAL*1 LANIM, LCOLOR
C--- Initialize graphics
      CALL INITG(XMRSCl, YMRSCl, MRCOLs, XMCSCL,
1    YMCSCL, MCCOLs, LANIM, LCOLOR)
C--- Title display
      WRITE (10, 100)
100  FORMAT(1H1, 'A SINE WAVE')
C--- Calculate and display a sine wave
```

```
C--- Move to starting point
      CALL CURSOR (0, 128)
C--- Determine distance between X values
      INCR = IFIX (YMRSCl + 0.5)
      IF(INCR.LE.0)INCR = 1
C--- Draw the actual curve
      DO 1000 IX = INCR, 255, INCR
        X = 3.14159*FLOAT(IX)/64.0
        Y = SIN(X)*100.0
        IY = IFIX (Y + 128.0)
1000  CALL LINE (IX, IY)
      END
```



```

THE COORDINATE SYSTEM CURRENTLY IN USE
;
;
;
;
USERS REGISTERS A, H, AND L:
;
CUB08: LDA MODE WHICH MODE?
CUB09: PUSH PSV I'LL NEED IT LATER
CUB10: XRA A MOVE H TO A WITH CY CLEAR
CUB11: ORA H
CUB12: RAR DIVIDE BY 2
CUB13: MOV H,A I AND SAVE IT
CUB14: XRA A I DO THE SAME FOR Y
CUB15: ORA L
CUB16: RAR
CUB17: MOV L,A
CUB18: POP PSV
CUB19: INR A
CUB20: RP
CUB21: XRA A
CUB22: JMP CUB01
;
ROUTINE DOT
;
; DISPLAY THE POINT AT THE CURSOR POSITION
;
JBLOCK #1: ADDRESS CALCULATION FROM Y POSITION
;
DOT: PUSH PSV ISAVE THE WORLD
PUSH B
PUSH D
PUSH H
LDA MODE
MOV C,A GET THE DISPLAY MODE BYT
LDA YPOS I MAXX-80=MAXC-81-R128,
INR C IY ADDR IS FIRST
JM DI01 WHICH RESOLUTION
PUSH PSV I64 BY 64
RAR ISAVE FOR BIT MASK TIME
DI01: CHA CONVERT TO LINE NUMBER
MOV D,A ISAVE A COPY
ANI IFH EACH QUADRANT IS 32 HIGH
MOV L,A MULT LINE # BY BYTES/LIN
MOV A,D BUT FIRST CORRECT FOR QU
ANI 2BH WHICH ARE WE IN?
JZ DI02 LIST OR 2ND, NO CORRECT R
MVI A,4BH MOVE DOWN TO 3RD OR 4TH
ADD L WHICH IS IK AFTER SHIFTI
MOV L,A END OF QUADRANT CORRECTI
MVI H,0BH READY TO MULTIPLY BY 16
DAD H TIMES 2
DAD H TIMES 2
DAD H TIMES 2
DAD H TIMES 2 = TIMES 16
XCHG MAKE ROOM FOR BASE ADDRESS
LHL RBUF WHERE DO WE START?
DAD D H,L IS FIRST BYTE ON LIN
;
JBLOCK #2: ADDRESS CALCULATION FROM X POSITION
;
LDA XPOS GET X CURSOR
INR C WHICH RESOLUTION?

```

Listing 1 continued on page 168

```

ROUTINE LINE
; GENERATE THE LINE FROM THE CURRENT CURSOR
; POSITION TO THE POINT X,Y IN H,L.
; USES DOT TO ACTUALLY DISPLAY THE POINTS.
;
; BLOCK 1: PRELIMINARIES
;
; 1.1--SECTOR DETERMINATION
;
LINE: PUSH PSW ;SAVE THE WORLD
      PUSH B ; NOTE: ORDER IS SET BY
      PUSH D ; RESTORE IN DOT
      PUSH H ;
      CALL CURE00 ;COORDINATES NEED CHANGING
      LDA XPOS ;GET CURRENT CURSOR POSITION
      CMP H ;WHICH IS BIGGER?
      JC L100 JXP
      JNEED A-H
      ;SET SECTOR CODE TO ZERO
      JMP L101 JAND CONTINUE
      L100: CMA ; WHICH REQUIRES 2'S COMP
      INR A ; AND AN ADD
      ADD A ;SECTOR CODE GETS 4
      MVI B,04H JXP GOES IN D
      L101: MOV D,A YPOS
      LDA YPOS ;DO THE SAME FOR Y
      CMP L ;WHICH IS LARGER
      JC L102 JYF IS
      JYC IS
      ;SAVE IT
      MOV E,A JAND CONTINUE
      JMP L103 JAGAIN, GET 2'S COMPLIMENT
      L102: CMA ;
      INR A ; TO FIND YF-YC
      L ; AND SAVE IT
      MOV E,A ; INCR SECTOR CODE BY 2
      MVI A,02H ;
      ADD B ;NEW SECTOR VALUE
      MOV B,A ;IS XP < YP?
      MOV A,D ; IF SO THEY NEED EXCHANGING
      CMC E ; OK AS THEY ARE
      JNC L104 JXP = YP
      MOV D,E ; AND YP = OLD XP
      MOV E,A ;AND SECTOR CODE GETS ONE MORE
      INR B ;
;
; 1.2--PARAMETER INITIALIZATION
;
L104: MVI L,00H ;XT = 0
      MOV H,D JXP
      PUSH H ;XP, XT
      MOV H,L ;X,0
      PUSH H ;TA = 0
      MOV L,E ;HL = YP
      DY ;DY = +YP
      MOV A,D ;DETERMINE DX
      CMA ; WHICH IS 2'S COMPLIMENT
      MOV L,A ; OF XP
      MOV H,0FFH ; 1.E. DX = -XP
      INX H ;

```

```

0237 22A304      DX      ;SAVE FOR L000P
0238 37          ;T0 = 1/2 DX
0239 7C          A,H      ;ARITH SHIFT RIGHT
023C 1F          ;      OF H,L
023D 67          H,A      ;HIGH BYTE DONE
023E 7D          A,L      ;NOW DO LOW BYTE
023F 1F          ;
0240 6F          L,A      ;ALL DONE
0241 E5          H        ;SAVE T0

;
;
; 1.3--SET UP COORDINATE TRANSFORMATION TABLE
;
0242 21BD03      LXI      ;CALCULATE CORRECT MOVES
0243 76          MOV      A,B
0246 07          RLC      ;OFFSET INTO TABLE
0247 07          RLC      ;EACH ENTRY IS FOUR BYTES
0248 3F          MOV      E,A
0249 1608        MVI      D,0
024B 19          DAD      D
024C 5E          MOV      H,M
024D 23          INX      H
024E 56          MOV      D,M
024F 2B          XCHG
0250 22A504      SHLD     ;AND STORE IN MOVE ZERO
0251 EB          XCHG     ;NOW GET 'ONE' MOVE
0252 23          INX      ;WHICH ARE THE NEXT 2 ENTRIES
0253 EB          XCHG     ;MIX
0254 23          INX      H
0255 5E          MOV      E,M
0256 23          INX      H
0257 56          MOV      D,M
0258 EB          XCHG
0259 22A704      SHLD     ; AND STORE

;
;
; BLOCK #2: THE ACTUAL LINE GENERATION LOOP
;
; 2.1--DISPLAY THE CURRENT POINT
;
025C CD7701      L800:    CALL DOT
;
; 2.2--TEST FOR DONE
;
025F C1          POP      B
0260 D1          POP      D
0261 E1          POP      H
0262 7D          MOV      A,L
0263 BC          CMP      H
0264 D2EC01      JNC      D402
0267 2C          INR      L
0268 E5          PUSH     H
;
; 2.3--DETERMINE NEXT MOVE
;
0269 2A1104      LHL      DY
026C 19          DAD      D
026D E5          PUSH     H
026E 09          DAD      B
026F DA7002      JC       L240
;
; 2.4--MAKE THE REQUIRED MOVE
;

```


[illegible]

02ED C2E402
02F0 E1
02F1 2C
02F2 C9

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```

JN2D C2E402      JN2    C311  MORE TO GO
POP              H        H        RESTORE X
INR              L        L        JUP ONE ON Y
RET              L        L        JEND OF LOCAL SUBROUTINE

;
;BLOCK 4: GENERATE FIRST COLUMN OF 5 WIDE CHARACTERS
;
; A = 83H          C = CHAR - 32
; D,E = XPOS, YPOS
; M,L = ADDR OF 1ST BYTE OF CHAR TABLE ENTRY
;
C400: MOV         A,M           ;GET FLAGS
PUSH     D               ;SAVE STARTING CURSOR
ANI      04H             ;AUXILIARY LOOKUP REQUIRED
JNZ      C410            ; YES. GO DO IT
CHA      B,05H           ;1ST COLUMN ALL ONES (M & V)
MVI      RLC             ;5 POINTS TO A COLUMN
C411:   RLC               ;SHOULD THE POINT BE ON?
C401:   XCHG              ;GET X,Y IN R,L
SHLD     YPOS            ;CURRENT CURSOR POSITION
CC        DOT            ;DISPLAY AS REQUIRED
XCHG     E               ;BACK TO NORMALCY
INR      B               ;NEXT YPOS
DCR      B               ;TEST FOR DONE
JNZ      C401            ;NOT YET
; ORIGINAL CURSOR POSITION
; FIX UP TO DO COLUMNS 2-5
INR      D               ; AS A WIDE CHAR
MVI      A,02H           ; AS A WIDE CHAR
RET

C410:   PUSH     H          ;SAVE CHAR TABLE ENTRY
LXI      H,CHRA-3       ;AUXILIARY TABLE ADDR
MVI      B,00H          ;FOR CHARS #, $, %, AND 4
DAD      B               ;NOTE! C HAS CHAR - 20H
MOV      A,M             ;GET THE FIRST COLUMN
POP      H               ;AND RESTORE TABLE ENTRY
JMP      C411            ;DISPLAY THE RETRIEVED COLUMN

;
;BLOCK 5: CONTROL CHARACTER
;
; A = ASCII CONTROL CHARACTER
;
C500:   CPI          00H      ;MAXCR?
JZ       C501                ;YES
CPI      02H                 ;RI287
JNC      C503                ;NO
C501:   MVI      B,7FH        ;I28 BY I28 WHITE
C502:   STA      MODE         ;CONVERT TO MODE BYTE
MOV      A,B                 ;AND SAVE NEW MODE
OUT      DAZ1                ;DESIRE DAZZLER MODE
RET

C503:   CPI          01H      ;MAXCG?
JZ       C504                ;YES
CPI      03H                 ;RG647
JNC      C505                ;NO
C504:   MVI      B,3FH        ;64 BY 64 FULL COLOR
C505:   JMP      C502         ;FEAT IS SAME AS I28
CPI      0AH                 ;PLINE FEED?
JNZ      C506                ;NO
LXI      H,YPOS             ;YPOS = YPOS - 8
MOV      A,M

```

```

SUI      08H
MOV      M,A
RET
C556:    CPI      9DH
JNZ      C56B
XRA      A
STA      XPOS
RET
C568:    GCH
CS10     CS10
MODE     B,A
A-7AH   B
INR      B
JP       C569
MVI      A,3AH
STA      TPOS
JMP      JNP
CPI      10H
JC       C512
RC
CPI      10H
RNC
ORI      08H
MOV      B,A
LDA      MODE
INR      A
JM       C511
MVI      MOV      B,BFH
ANI      ANI      BPH
MOV      MOV      B,A
RRR
RRR
RRR
ORA      ORA
STA      STA
RET
ROUTINE ANIMATE
SWAP DISPLAY BUFFERS
; BUFFER CURRENTLY BEING FILLED IS DISPLAYED
; BUFFER INDICATED BY ANIM IS FILLED
ANIM=0 STARTS FILLING RBUF+2K
ANIM=-1 STARTS FILLING RBUF-2K
;
; ANIMATE: PUSH PSW ;SAVE REGISTERS USED
;          PUSH B ;
;          PUSH H ;D IS NOT TOUCHED
;          IN DAZ0 ;VERTICAL BLANKING ON?
;          ANI 4BH ;IF SO
;          JC AN002 ;WAIT FOR NEXT ONE
;          LXI H,ANIM ;ADDRESS OF IN USE FLAG
;          MOV A,M ;BUFFER IN USE
;          CMA ;SET FOR NEXT TRY
;          MOV M,A ;AND SAVE FOR NEXT TIME
;          MOV B,A ;ALSO SAVE FOR LATER
;
; AN002: IN DAZ0
;          JC AN002
;          LXI H,ANIM
;          MOV A,M
;          CMA
;          MOV M,A
;          MOV B,A

```

Listing 1 continued on page 174

Listing 1 continued:

```

03A8 2B      DCX      H      ; NOW LOOKING AT HIGH BYTE
03A1 7E      MOV      A,M    ; OF RBUF
03A2 37      STC              ; FUTURE GO BIT
03A3 1F      RAR              ; ALL SET TO DISPLAY
03A4 4F      MOV      C,A    ; WHAT'S THE DAZZLER DOING?
03A5 D80E    IN        DAZ0  ; VERTICAL BLANKING ON?
03A7 E648    AMI        48H   ; NOT YET. GIVE IT TIME
03A9 C2A503  JNZ        AN000  ; NEW BUFFER WITH NO FLICKER
03AC 79      MOV      DAZ0  ; IS NOW DISPLAYING
03AD D38E    OUT              ; CALCULATE NEW FILL
03AF 7E      MOV      A,M    ; ASSUME BUFFER 0
03B0 C608    ADI        80H   ; WHICH IS IT?
03B2 04      INR        B      ; ZERO IT IS
03B3 CAB803  JZ         AN001  ; THE SECOND, SO COME BACK
03B6 D618    MOV      M,A    ; UPDATE THE FILL ADDRESS
03B9 E1      POP      H      ; AND RESTORE THE WORLD
03BA C1      POP      B      ;
03BB F1      POP      PSW   ;
03BC C9      RET              ;

```

END OF EXECUTABLE PROGRAM CODE

LOOKUP TABLES

MOVE TABLE FOR THE LINE GENERATOR

```

03BD FF00FFFF NEXT: DB      0FFH,000H,0FFH,0FFH    ; SECTOR 5
03C1 00FFFFF DB      000H,0FFH,0FFH,0FFH    ; SECTOR 6
03C5 FF00FF01 DB      0FFH,000H,0FFH,001H    ; SECTOR 4
03C9 0001FF01 DB      000H,001H,0FFH,001H    ; SECTOR 3
03CD 010001FF DB      001H,000H,001H,0FFH    ; SECTOR 8
03D1 00FF01FF DB      000H,0FFH,001H,0FFH    ; SECTOR 7
03D5 01000101 DB      001H,000H,001H,001H    ; SECTOR 1
03D9 00010101 DB      000H,001H,001H,001H    ; SECTOR 2

```

CHARACTER MATRIX TABLE

```

; EACH ENTRY IS 3 BYTES
; BIT >> 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0
; BYTE 0 U2 Q R S T V5 V2 V1
; BYTE 1 M N O P I J K L
; BYTE 2 E F G H A B C D
;
; A B C D      FLAGS
; E F G H      U2: DESCENDERS, MOVE DOWN 2
; I J K L      V2: V1: WIDTH OF CHARACTER - 2
; M N O P      V3: FOR FIVE WIDE FIGURES
; Q R S T      0 - FIRST COLUMN ALL ONES
;              1 - FIRST COLUMN FROM CHRA
;              REPRESENTS 2ND THRU 5TH COLUMNS
;              OF FIVE COLUMN WIDE CHARACTERS

```

```

CHRX: DB      02H,00H,00H,40H,08H,60H,01H,00H,0A0H    ; 1 "
03DD 02000408 DB      57H,0FAH,0FAH,77H,5EH,4EH,1FH,0BAH,0A9H    ; 1 "
03E6 57FAFA775E DB

```

```

03EF 6F25CC0000 DB      6FH,25H,0CCH,00H,00H,08H,20H,88H,84H
03F8 404A4881A4 DB      40H,4AH,48H,01H,0A0H,0A0H,01H,4EH,40H
0401 00000010E DB      00H,00H,00H,01H,0EH,00H,40H,00H,00H
040A 42421032DB DB      42H,42H,10H,32H,00H,06H,71H,4AH,ACH
0413 7A42967216 DB      7AH,42H,96H,72H,16H,1EH,0AH,1FH,99H
0416 721E8F329E DB      72H,1EH,8FH,32H,9EH,86H,42H,42H,1FH
0425 3596967817 DB      32H,96H,96H,72H,17H,96H,40H,08H,00H
042E 0000081148 DB      00H,08H,08H,11H,48H,42H,01H,0EH,0EH
0437 414248282E DB      41H,42H,48H,22H,82H,96H,62H,08H,9FH
0440 4AF996729E DB      4AH,0F9H,96H,72H,9EH,9EH,32H,98H,96H
0449 79999E7A8E DB      72H,99H,9EH,7AH,8EH,8FH,42H,8EH,8FH
0452 3998864A9F DB      32H,98H,86H,4AH,9FH,99H,71H,4AH,4EH
045B 329111AAAC DB      32H,91H,11H,AAH,0ACH,0A9H,7AH,88H,88H
0464 0B581A98 DB      0BH,55H,0B1H,4AH,9BH,0D9H,32H,99H,96H
046D 428E9E3AB9 DB      42H,8EH,9EH,3AH,0BH,96H,4AH,0ACH,9EH
0476 7216871222 DB      72H,16H,87H,12H,22H,2FH,32H,99H,99H
047F 32699908B5 DB      32H,69H,99H,0BH,0B3H,51H,4AH,66H,99H
0486 2226997A84 DB      22H,26H,99H,7AH,84H,2FH,60H,88H,8CH
0491 0212486044 DB      02H,12H,48H,60H,4AH,4CH,02H,08H,96H
049A F00000 DB      0FH,00H,00H,00H

```

AUXILIARY LOOKUP TABLE

FIRST COLUMN OF 0, 3, 1, AND 4

```

049D 50109808 CHRA: DB      50H,10H,98H,60H,10,3,1,4

```

END OF ROMABLE SEGMENT OF PROGRAM

START OF RAM (VARIABLE) STORAGE AREA

SCRATCH PAD STORAGE FOR THE LINE GENERATOR

THESE LOCATIONS MAY BE ALTERED AT ANY TIME A LINE IS NOT ACTUALLY BEING GENERATED

VARIABLES MUST BE IN THE ORDER GIVEN.

```

04A1 DY: DS      2    ;+Y+
04A3 DX: DS      2    ;+X+
04A5 MX: DS      1    ;X INCR FOR A ZERO MOVE
04A6 MY: DS      1    ;Y INCR FOR A ZERO MOVE
04A7 NX: DS      1    ;X INCR FOR A ONE MOVE
04A8 NY: DS      1    ;Y INCR FOR A ONE MOVE

```

GLOBAL STORAGE AREA FOR THE GRAPHICS PACKAGE

THESE LOCATIONS MUST BE PRESERVED BETWEEN CALLS TO THE GRAPHICS ROUTINES.

THEY ARE INITIALIZED BY INITG.

VARIABLES MUST BE IN THE ORDER GIVEN.

```

04A9 RBUF: DS      2    ;REFRESH BUFFER ADDRESS
04AB ANIN: DS      1    ;BUFFER IN USE FLAG FOR ANIMATION

```

YPOS: DS 1 ;Y CURSOR VALUE

XPOS: DS 1 ;X CURSOR VALUE

COLOR: DS 1 ;CURRENT COLOR BYTE

MODE: DS 1 ;DISPLAY MODE

END