

only odd hex letters.) But if you make a mistake and use an even number, the program will automatically correct it for you. The number of moves that the computer will look ahead is that number plus one divided by 2 : $(KK+1)/2$. VIP-FLOP is designed to always search (unless it runs up against the end of the game) a whole move forward at all times ending its search with a look at its opponent's possibilities. Further strategy modifications are discussed in the program details to allow, for instance, a two and one-half move look-ahead with interesting results.

If you want VIP-FLOP to search to the end of the game on each look-ahead, enter 60FF at 030C (the look-ahead automatically stops when it reaches the potential end of the game so a number this high may be used.) This will take a while, though!

You should consider, however, if you do increase the look-ahead, that VIP-FLOP may not actually play a better game just because it looks deeper. While this may be true up to a point, the look-ahead may actually become less effective past that point. Any look-ahead is only as good as the evaluation of board positions it uses to construct the look-ahead "tree." Believe it or not, luck on the computer's side actually has an effect, too! Some hints on writing your own evaluations will be