

**Editor's Note:** For more information about "Tiny Basic" and other public domain microcomputer software, see the letter by Jim C. Warren in the Correspondence section of this issue.

January 1976 Tiny BASIC Calisthenics & Orthodontia Box 310, Menlo Park CA 94025

## DESIGN NOTES FOR TINY BASIC

by Dennis Allison, happy Lady, & friends  
(reprinted from *People's Computer Company* Vol. 4, No. 2)

### SOME MOTIVATIONS

A lot of people have just gotten into having their own computer. Often they don't know too much about software and particularly systems software, but would like to be able to program in something other than machine language. The TINY BASIC project is aimed at you if you are one of these people. Our goals are very limited--to provide a minimal BASIC-like language for writing simple programs. Later we may make it more complicated, but now the name of the game is keep it simple. That translates to a limited language (no floating point, no sines and cosines, no arrays, etc.) and even this is a pretty difficult undertaking.

Originally we had planned to limit ourselves to the 8000, but with a variety of new machines appearing at very low prices, we have decided to try to make a portable TINY BASIC system even at the cost of some efficiency. Most of the language processor will be written in a pseudo language which is good for writing interpreters like TINY BASIC. This pseudo language (which interprets TINY BASIC) will then itself be implemented interpretively. To implement TINY BASIC on a new machine, one simply writes a simple interpreter for this pseudo language and not a whole interpreter for TINY BASIC.

We'd like this to be a participatory design project. This sequence of design notes follows the project which we are doing here at PCC. There may well be errors in content and concept. If you're making a BASIC along with us, we'd appreciate your help and your corrections.

Incidentally, were we building a production interpreter or compiler, we would probably structure the whole system quite differently. We chose this scheme because it is easy for people to change without access to specialized tools like parser generator programs.

### THE TINY BASIC LANGUAGE

There isn't much to it. TINY BASIC looks like BASIC but all variables are integers. There are no functions yet (we plan to add RND, TAB; and some others later). Statement numbers must be between 1 and 255 so we can store them in a single byte. TINY only works on the whole program. There is no FOR-NEXT statement. We've tried to simplify the language to the extent where it will fit into a very small memory so impudent types can use the system.

The boxes below define the language. The guide gives a quick reference to what we will include. The formal grammar defines exactly what is a legal TINY BASIC statement. The grammar is important because our interpreter design will be based upon it.

### IT'S ALL DARK WITH MIRRORS----- ON HOW TINY BASIC WORKS

All the variables in TINY BASIC: the control information as to which statement is presently being executed and how the next statement is to be found, the return addresses of active GOSUBS---all this information constitutes the state of the TINY BASIC interpreter.

There are several procedures which act upon this state. One procedure knows how to execute any TINY BASIC statement. Given the starting point in memory of a TINY BASIC statement, it will execute it changing the state of the machine as required. For example,

100 LET S = A+6  
would change the value of S to the sum of the contents of the variable A and the integer 6, and sets the next line counter to whatever line follows 100, if the line exists.

A second procedure readily controls the interpretation process by telling the line interpreter what to do. When TINY BASIC is loaded, this control routine performs some initialization, and then attempts to read a line of information from the console. The characters typed in are saved in a buffer, LBUF. It first checks to see if there is a leading line number. If there is, it incorporates the line into the program by first deleting the line with the same line number (if it is present) then inserting the new line. If it is of nonzero length. If there is no line number present, it attempts to execute the line directly. With this strategy, all possible commands, even LIST and CLEAR and RUN are possible inside programs. Suicidal programs are also certainly possible.

**line ::= number statement** | **statement**

The things in bold face stand for themselves. The names in lower case represent classes of things. '::=' is read 'is defined as'. The asterisk denotes zero or more occurrences of the object to its immediate left. Parenthesis group objects. 'ε' is the empty set. '|' denotes the alternative (the exclusive-or).

```

line ::= number statement | statement
statement ::= PRINT expr-list
    IF expression relop expression THEN statement
    GOTO expression
    INPUT var-list
    LET var = expression
    GOSUB expression
    RETURN
    CLEAR
    LIST
    RUN
    END

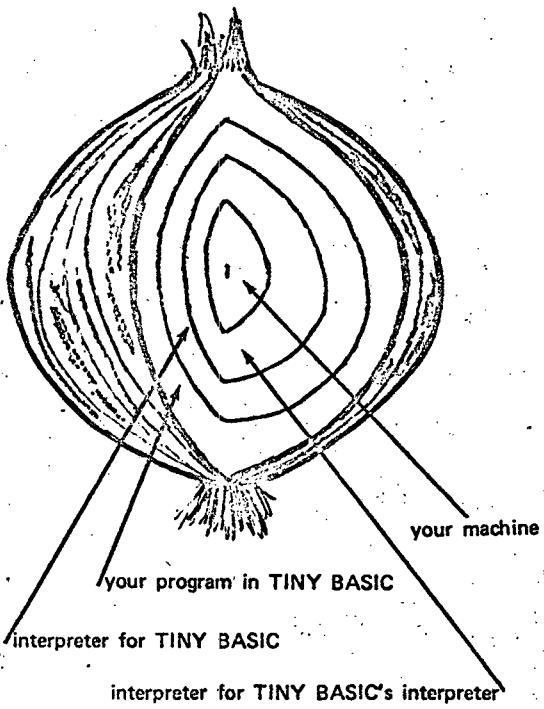
expr-list ::= (string | expression) (, (string | expression) *)
var-list ::= var (, var) *
expression ::= (+ | - | ε) term ((+ | -) term) *
term ::= factor ((* | /) factor) *
factor ::= var | number | (expression)
var ::= A | B | C ... | V | Z
number ::= digit digit*
digit ::= 0 | 1 | 2 | ... | 9 | ε
relop ::= < | > | = | ε | = | ε | =
A BREAK from the console will interrupt execution of the program.

```

**IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AND ONIONS**

When you write a program in TINY BASIC there is an abstract machine which is necessary to execute it. If you had a compiler it would make in the machine language of your computer a program which emulates that abstract machine for your program. An interpreter implements the abstract machine for the entire language and rather than translating the program once to machine code it translates it dynamically as needed. Interpreters are programs and as such have their's as abstract machines. One can find a better instruction set than that of any general purpose computer for writing a particular interpreter. Then one can write an interpreter to interpret the instructions of the interpreter which is interpreting the TINY BASIC program. And if your machine is microprogrammed (like PACE), the machine which is interpreting the interpreter interpreting the interpreter interpreting BASIC is in fact interpreted.

This multilayered, onion-like approach gains two things: the interpreter for the interpreter is smaller and simpler to write than an interpreter for all of TINY BASIC, so the resultant system is fairly portable. Secondly, since the major part of the TINY BASIC is programmed in a highly memory efficient, tailored instruction set, the interpreted TINY BASIC will be smaller than direct coding would allow. The cost is in execution speed, but there is not such a thing as a free lunch.

**LINE STORAGE**

The TINY BASIC program is stored, except for line numbers, just as it is entered from the console. In some BASIC interpreters, the program is translated into an intermediate form which speeds execution and saves space. In the TINY BASIC environment, the code necessary to provide the

## **QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE FOR TINY BASIC**

**LINE FORMAT AND EDITING**

- Lines without numbers executed immediately
- Lines with numbers appended to program
- Line numbers must be 1 to 255
- Line number alone (empty line) deletes line
- Blanks are not significant, but key words must contain no unneeded blanks
- '~~l~~' deletes last character
- ~~X<sup>c</sup>~~ deletes the entire line

**EXECUTION CONTROL**

CLEAR delete all lines and data  
RUN run program  
LIST list program

**EXPRESSIONS****Operators**

Arithmetic	Relational
+	>
-	$\geq$
*	<
/	$\leq$
=	$\neq$
	<>, ><

Variables  
A.....Z (26 only)

All arithmetic is modulo  $2^{15}$   
 $(\pm 32762)$

**INPUT / OUTPUT**

PRINT X,Y,Z  
PRINT 'A STRING'  
PRINT 'THE ANSWER IS'  
INPUT X  
INPUT X,Y,Z

**ASSIGNMENT STATEMENTS**

LET X=3  
LET X= -3+5.\*Y

**CONTROL STATEMENTS**

GOTO X+10  
GOTO 35  
GOSUB X+35  
GOSUB 50  
RETURN  
IF X > Y THEN GOTO 30

transformation would easily exceed the space saved.

When a line is read in from the console device, it is saved in a 72-byte array called LBUF (Line BUFFer). At the same time, a pointer, CP, is maintained to indicate the next available space in LBUF. Indexing is, of course, from zero.

Delete the leading blanks. If the string matches the BASIC line, advance the cursor over the matched string and execute the next IL instruction. If the match fails, continue at the IL instruction labeled lbi.

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The TINY BASIC program is stored as an array called PGM in order of increasing line numbers. A pointer, PGP, indicates the first free place in the array. PGP=0 indicates an empty program; PGP must be less than the dimension of the array PGM. The PGM array must be reorganized when new lines are added, lines replaced, or lines are deleted.

Insertion and deletion are carried on simultaneously. When a new line is to be entered, the PGM array searches for a line with a line number greater than or equal to that of the new line. Notice that lines begin at PGM (0) and at PGM ( $j+1$ ) for every  $j$  such that  $PGM(j) = \text{[carriage return]}$ . If the line numbers are equal, then the length of the existing line is computed. A space equal to the length of the new line is created by moving all lines with line numbers greater than that of the line being inserted up or down as appropriate. The empty line is handled as a special case in that no insertion is made.

#### TINY BASIC AS STORED IN MEMORY

byte in memory treated as an integer

↓  
byte treated as a character

```
PRINT "POWER"
S" INPUT N" PR
INT N*N, N+N$N" IF
N<>0 THEN GOTO 1
10 END
```

a carriage return symbol

free space

#### ERRORS AND ERROR RECOVERY

There are two places that errors can occur. If they occur in the TINY BASIC system, they must be captured and action taken to preserve the system. If the error occurs in the TINY BASIC program entered by the user, the system should report the error and allow the user to fix his problem. An error in TINY BASIC can result from a badly formed statement, an illegal action (attempt to divide by zero, for example), or the exhaustion of some resource such as memory space. In any case, the desired response is some kind of error message. We plan to provide a message of the form:

I mmm AT nnn

where mmm is the error number and nnn is the line number at which it occurs. For direct statements, the form will be:

I mmm

since there is no line number.

Some error indications we know we will need are:

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Syntax error          | 5 RETURN without GOSUB   |
| 2 Missing line          | 6 Expression too complex |
| 3 Line number too large | 7 Too many lines         |
| 4 Too many GOSUBs       | 8 Division by zero       |

#### THE BASIC LINE EXECUTOR

The execution routine is written in the interpretive language, IL. It consists of a sequence of instructions which may call subroutines written in IL, or invoke special instructions which are really subroutines written in machine language.

Two different things are going on at the same time. The routines must determine if the TINY BASIC line is a legal one and determine its form according to the grammar; secondly, it must call appropriate action routines to execute the line. Consider the TINY BASIC statement:

GOTO 100

At the start of the line, the interpreter looks for BASIC key words (LET, GO, IF, RETURN, etc.) In this case, it finds GO, and then finds TO. By this time it knows that it has found a GOTO statement. It then calls the routine EXPR to obtain the destination line number of the GOTO. The expression routine calls a whole bunch of other routines, eventually leaving the number 100 (the value of the expression) in a special place, the top of the arithmetic expression stack. Since everything is legal, the XFER operator is invoked to arrange for the execution of line 100 (if it exists) as the next line to be executed.

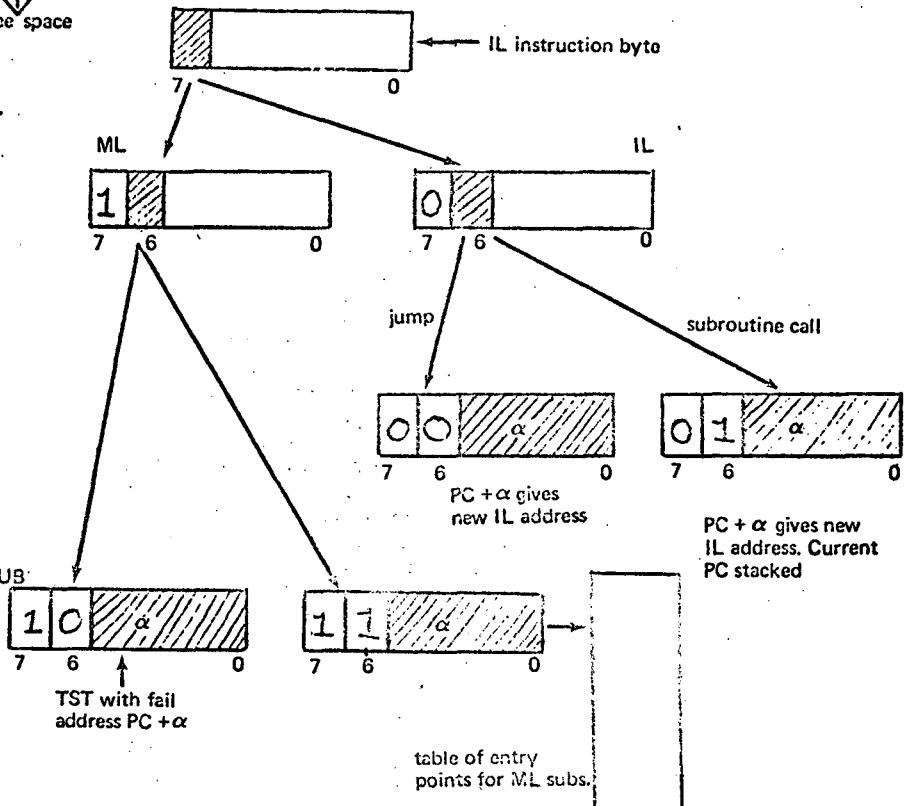
Each TINY BASIC statement is handled similarly. Some procedural section of an IL program corresponds to tests for the statement structure and acts to execute the statement.

#### ENCODING

There are a number of different considerations in the TINY BASIC design which fall in this general category. The problem is to make efficient use of the bits available to store information without loosing out by requiring a too complex decoding scheme.

In a number of places we have to indicate the end of a string of characters (or else we have to provide for its length somewhere). Commonly, one uses a special character (NUL = 00H for example) to indicate the end. This costs one byte per string but is easy to check. A better way depends upon the fact that ASCII code does not use the high order bit; normally it is used for parity.

#### ONE POTENTIAL IL ENCODING



on transmission. We can use it to indicate the end (that is, last character) of a string. When we process the characters we must AND the character with D7FH to scrub off the flag bit.

The interpreter opcodes can be encoded into a single byte. Operations fall into two distinct classes--those which call machine language subroutines, and those which either call or transfer within the IL language itself. The diagram indicates one encoding scheme. The CALL operations have been subsumed into the IL instruction set. Addressing is shown to be relative to PC for IL operations. Given the current IL program size, this seems adequate. If it is not, the address could be used to index an array with the ML class instructions.

## TINY BASIC INTERPRETIVE OPERATIONS

TST ib1, 'string'	delete leading blanks If string matches the BASIC line, advance cursor over the matched string and execute the next IL instruction. If a match fails, execute the IL instruction at the labeled ib1.
CALL ib1	Execute the IL subroutine starting at ib1. Save the IL address following the CALL on the control stack.
RTN	Return to the IL location specified by the top of the control stack.
DONE	Report a syntax error if after deletion leading blanks the cursor is not positioned to read a carriage return.
JMP ib1	Continue execution of IL at the label specified.
PRS	Print characters from the BASIC text up to but not including the closing quote mark. If a cr is found in the program text, report an error. Move the cursor to the point following the closing quote.
PRN	Print number obtained by popping the top of the expression stack.
SPC	Insert spaces to move the print head to next zone.
NLINE	Output CRLF to Printer.
NXT	If the present mode is direct (line number zero), then return to line collection. Otherwise, select the next sequential line and begin interpretation.
XFER	Test value at the top of the AESTK to be within range. If not, report an error. If so, attempt to position cursor at that line. If it exists, begin interpretation there; if not report an error.
SAV	Place present line number on SBRSTK. Report overflow as error.
RSTR	Replace current line number with value on SBRSTK. If stack is empty, report error.
CMPR	Compare AESTK(SP), the top of the stack, with AESTK(SP-2) as per the relation indicated by AESTK(SP-1). Delete all from stack. If condition specified did not match, then perform NXT action.
INNUM	Read a number from the terminal and push its value onto the AESTK.
FIN	Return to the line collect routine.
ERR	Report syntax error and return to line collect routine.
ADD	Replace top two elements of AESTK by their sum.
SUB	Replace top two elements of AESTK by their difference.
NEG	Replace top of AESTK with its negative.
MUL	Replace top two elements of AESTK by their product.
DIV	Replace top two elements of AESTK by their quotient.
STORE	Place the value at the top of the AESTK into the variable designated by the index specified by the value immediately below it. Delete both from the stack.
TSTV ib1	Test for variable (i.e., letter) if present. Place its index value onto the AESTK and continue execution at next suggested location. Otherwise, continue at ib1.
TSTN ib1	Test for number. If present, place its value onto the AESTK and continue execution at next suggested location. Otherwise, continue at ib1.
IND	Replace top of stack by variable value if indexes.
LST	list the contents of the program area.
INIT	Performs global initialization Clears program area, empties GOSUB stack, etc.
GETLINE	Input a line to LBUF.
TSTL ib1	After editing leading blanks, look for a line number. Report error if invalid; transfer to ib1 if not present.
INSRT	Insert line after deleting any line with same line number.
XINIT	Perform initialization for each stated execution. Empties AEXP stack.

## A STATEMENT EXECUTOR WRITTEN IN IL

This program in IL will execute a TINY BASIC statement. The operators TST, TSTV, TSTN, and PRS all use a cursor to find characteristics of the TINY BASIC line. Other operations (INIT, XPER) move the cursor so it points to another TINY BASIC line.

## THE IL CONTROL SECTION

START:	INIT	:INITIALIZE
CO:	MLINE	:WRITC CRLF
	GET LINE	:WORD COUNT & GET A LINE
	TST	:TEST FOR NUMBER
	INSRT	:INSERT IT (MAY BE DELETE)
	JMP	:CO
STMT:	XINIT	:INITIALIZE FOR EXECUTION

## STATEMENT EXECUTOR

STMT:	TST	\$1.'LET'	:IS STATEMENT A LET?
	TSTV	\$1.'	:YES, PLACE VAR ADDRESS ON AESTK.
	CALL	EXPR	:PLACE EXPR VALUE ON AESTK.
	DONE		:REPORT ERROR IF CO NOT NEXT.
	STONE		:STORE CURRENT TO NEXT.
	NEXT		:END SEQUENCE TO NEXT.
S1:	TST	\$2.'GO'	:GOTO OR GOSUB.
	TST	\$2.'TO'	:YES, TO OR ...SUB.
	CALL	EXPR	:GET LABEL.
	DONE		:ERROR IF CO NOT NEXT.
	XPER		:JUMP IF CO NOT NEX.
S2:	TST	\$14.'SUB'	:GET DESTINATION.
	CALL	EXPR	:ERROR IF CO NOT NEX.
	DONE		:SAVE RETURN LINE.
	SAV		:AND JUMP.
	XFER		:PRINT.
S3:	TST	\$2.'PRINT'	:PRINT FOR QUOTE.
	PRN	\$1.'	:PRINT STRING.
S4:	TST	\$2.'	:IS THERE MORE?
	SPC		:SPACE TO NEXT ZONE.
	JMP	\$4	:YES, JUMP BACK.
	DONE		:NO, ERROR IF NO.
	MLINE		
	NEXT		
S5:	CALL	EXPR	:GET EXPRESSION VALUE.
	PRN		:PRINT IT.
	JMP		:IS THERE MORE?
S6:	TST	\$5.'IF'	:STATEMENT.
	CALL	EXPR	:GET EXPRESSION.
	CALL	RELOP	:DETERMINE OPER AND PUT ON STK.
	CALL	EXPR	:GET EXPRESSION.
	CMPR		:PERFORM COMPARISON--PERFORMS NEXT IF FALSE.
S7:	TST	STMT	:GET NEXT STATEMENT.
S10:	CALL	\$12.'INPUT'	:CALL INPUT.
	INNUM	VAR	:GET VAR ADDRESS.
	STORE		:MOVE NUMBER FROM TTY TO AESTK.
	NEXT		:STONE IT.
S11:	DONE		:IS THERE MORE?
	NEXT		:MUST BE CO.
	TST	\$11.'	:SEQUENCE TO NEXT.
	JMP		:RETURN STATEMENT.
	S12:	'RETURN'	:MUST BE CR.
	DONE		:SEQUENCE LINE NUMBER OF CALL.
	NEXT		:SEQUENCE TO NEXT STATEMENT.
S13:	TST	\$14.'END'	
S14:	TST	\$15.'LAST'	:LIST COMMAND.
S15:	TST	DONE	:RUN COMMAND.
	NEXT		
S16:	TST	\$16.'RUN'	:CLEAR COMMAND.
S18:	TST	\$17.'CLEAR'	
	DONE		
	JMP	START	
S17:	ERR		:SYNTAX ERROR.
	EXPR:	TST	
		CALL	
		EO,'-'	
		TERM	:TEST FOR UNARY -.
E0:	CALL	NEG	:GET VALUE.
	JMP	E1	:NEGATE IT.
E1:	TST	E1.'	:LOOK FOR MORE.
	CALL	TERM	:TEST FOR UNARY +.
	TST	E2.'	:RADIX TERM.
	CALL	ADD	:SUM TERM.
E2:	JMP	E1	
	TST	E2.'	:ANY MORE?
	CALL	SUB	:DIFFERENCE TERM.
E3:	JMP	E3	:ANY MORE?
	RTN		
	TERM:	CALL	:FACT
	TO:	TST	T1,'"
		CALL	:FACT
		MPY	;PRODUCT FACTOR.
		JMP	
T1:	TST	T2,'/'	:ANY MORE?
	CALL	FACT	:QUOTIENT FACTOR.
	DIV		
	JMP	TO	
	FACT:	TSTV	FO
		IND	;VARIABLE.
		RTN	;YES, GET THE VALUE.
F0:	TSTN	F1	;NUMBER, GET ITS VALUE.
		RTN	
F1:	TST	F2,'('	:PARENTHESIZED EXPR.
	CALL	EXPR	
	TST	F2,')'	:MATCHING PARENTHESIS.
		RTN	
F2:	ERR		:ERROR.
	RELOP:	TST	RO,'='
		LIT	0
		RTN	;
RO:	TST	R4,'<'	
	TST	R1,'='	
	LIT	2	:<-
	RTN		
R1:	TST	R3,'>'	
	LIT	3	:<>
	RTN		
R3:	LIT	1	:<
	RTN		
	R4:	TST	S17,'>'
	TST	RS5'	
	LIT	5	:>-
	RTN		
R5:	TST	R6,'<'	
	LIT	3	:<
	RTN		
R6:	LIT	4	:>
	RTN		

Corrected

**TINY BASIC IL**

```

; INTERPRETIVE LANGUAGE SUBROUTINES

; EXPRESSIONS
; TST E6 JTEST FOR UNARY '-'
; DB   '-' OR 2000
; ICALL TERM JPUT TERM ON AESTK
; NEG  JNEGATE VALUE ON AESTK
; HOP  EI JGO GET A TERM

; E8: TST E81 JTEST FOR UNARY '+'
; DB   '+' OR 2000
; ICALL TERM JPUT TERM ON AESTK
; E1: TST E2 JTEST FOR ADDITION
; DB   '+' OR 2000
; CALL TERM JGET SECOND TERM
; ADD  JPUT SUM OF TERMS ON AESTK
; HOP  EI JLOOP AROUND FOR MORE

; E2: TST E3 JTEST FOR SUBTRACTION
; DB   '-' OR 2000
; CALL TERM JGET SECOND TERM
; SUB  JPUT DIFFERENCE OF TERMS ON AESTK
; HOP  EI JLOOP AROUND FOR MORE

; E3: RTN JTHIS CAN BE RECURSIVE

; TERMS
; TERM: ICALL FACT JGET ONE FACTOR
; T0:   TST T1 JTEST FOR MULTIPLICATION
; DB   '*' OR 2000
; ICALL FACT JGET A FACTOR
; MPY  JPUT THE PRODUCT ON AESTK
; HOP  T6 JLOOP AROUND FOR MORE

; T1:   TST DB JTEST FOR DIVISION
; DB   '/' OR 2000
; ICALL FACT JGET THE QUOTIENT
; DIV  JPUT QUOTIENT ON AESTK
; HOP  T6 JLOOP FOR MORE

; T2:   RTN JRETURN TO CALLER

; FACTS
; FACT: TSTV FB JTEST FOR VARIABLE
; IND  JGET INDEX OF THE VARIABLE
; RTN

; F0:   TSTN FI JTEST FOR NUMBER
; RTN

; F1:   TST FI JERROR IF ITS NOT A '('
; DB   '(' OR 2000
; ICALL EXPR JTHIS IS A RECURSIVE PROCESS

; E1:   TST FE1 JEVERY '(' HAS TO HAVE A ')'
; DB   ')' OR 2000
; RTN

; RELOPS
; RELOP: TST R0 JCHECK FOR '='
; DB   '=' OR 2000
; LIT  0
; RTN

; R0:   TST R4 JCHECK FOR '<'
; DB   '<' OR 2000
; TST RI
; DB   '=' OR 2000
; LIT  2
; RTN

; R1:   TST R3 JCHECK FOR '>'
; DB   '>' OR 2000
; LIT  3
; RTN

; R3:   LIT 1
; RTN

; R4:   TST R4 JCHECK FOR '<='
; DB   '<=' OR 2000
; TST RS
; DB   '>' OR 2000
; LIT  5
; RTN

; R5:   TST R6 JCHECK FOR '>='
; DB   '>=' OR 2000
; LIT  3
; RTN

; R6:   LIT 4
; RTN

; STATEMENT EXECUTOR WRITTEN IN IL (INTERPRETIVE LANGUAGE)
; THIS IS WRITTEN IN MACROS FOR THE INTEL INTELC 8/MOD 80
; SYSTEM USING INTEL'S ASSEMBLER.

; CONTROL SECTION
; START: INIT SINITIALIZE
; CURRENT: NLIN JWRITE A CR-LF
; CO: GETLN JPUT PROMPT AND GET A LINE
; TST XEC JIF NO LINE NUMBER GO EXECUTE IT
; INSET IJMP GO JINSERT OR DELETE THE LINE
; HOP XINIT JSOUP FOR ANOTHER LINE
; JINITIALIZE FOR EXECUTION

; STATEMENT EXECUTOR
; STMT: TST SI JCHECK FOR 'LET'
; DB   'L', 'T' OR 2000
; SEI: TSTV SEI JERROR IF NO VARIABLE!
; SER: TST SEE JERROR IF NO '='
; DB   '=' OR 2000
; ICALL EXPR JPUT EXPRESSION ON AESTK
; DONE STORE JCHECK FOR CR LINE TERMINATOR
; NXT  JPUT VALUE OF EXPRESSION IN ITS CELL
; JCONTINUE NEXT LINE

; S1:   TST S3 JCHECK FOR 'BO'
; DB   'G', 'O' OR 2000
; TST S2 JCHECK FOR 'GOTO'
; DB   'T', 'O' OR 2000
; ICALL XFER JGET THE LABEL
; DONE JCHECK FOR CR LINE TERMINATOR
; XFER JDO A 'GOTO' TO THE LABEL

; S2:   TST S2 JCHECK FOR 'GOSUB', FAILURE IS AN ERROR
; DB   'S', 'U' OR 2000
; ICALL XFER JPUT EXPRESSION ON AESTK
; DONE SAV JCHECK FOR CR LINE TERMINATOR
; NXT  XFER JSAVE NEXT LINE NUMBER IN BASIC TEXT
; JDO A 'GOSUB' TO THE LABEL

; S3:   TST S6 JCHECK FOR 'PRINT'
; DB   'P', 'R', 'I', 'N' OR 2000
; TST S7 JCHECK FOR '"' TO BEGIN A STRING
; DB   '"' OR 2000
; PRS  JPRINT THE DATA ENCLOSED IN QUOTES
; SPC  JSPACE TO NEXT ZONE
; HOP  S4 JGO BACK FOR MORE
; DONE S6 JCHECK FOR CR LINE TERMINATOR
; NXT  JCONTINUE NEXT LINE

; S4:   TST S9 JCHECK FOR 'IF'
; DB   'I', 'F' OR 2000
; ICALL EXPR JGET THE FIRST EXPRESSION
; RELOP ICALL EXPR JGET THE RELATIONAL OPERATOR
; ICALL SBA JGET THE SECOND EXPRESSION
; DB   'T', 'H', 'E', 'N' OR 2000
; CHPR  S8A JCHECK FOR 'THEN'
; IJNP  S8B JIF NOT TRUE CONTINUE NEXT LINE
; STMT  S8C JIF TRUE PROCESS THE REST OF THIS LINE

; S8:   TST S12 JCHECK FOR 'INPUT'
; DB   'I', 'N', 'P', 'U' OR 2000
; ICALL VAR JGET THE VARIABLE'S INDEX
; INNUM  STORE JPUT THE NUMBER FROM THE TELETYPE
; TST S11 JPUT THE VALUE OF THE VARIABLE IN ITS CELL
; DB   '=' OR 2000
; HOP  S11 J', ' MEANS MORE DATA
; DONE S10 JCHECK FOR CR LINE TERMINATOR
; NXT  JCONTINUE NEXT LINE

; S12:  TST S13 JCHECK FOR 'RETURN'
; DB   'R', 'E', 'T' OR 2000
; DONE RSTR JCHECK FOR CR LINE TERMINATOR
; RSTR  JRETURN TO CALLER

; S13:  TST S14 JCHECK FOR 'END'
; DB   'E', 'N', 'D' OR 2000
; FIN  JGO BACK TO CONTROL MODE

; S14:  TST S15 JCHECK FOR 'LIST'
; DB   'L', 'I', 'S' OR 2000
; DONE LST JCHECK FOR CR LINE TERMINATOR
; LST   NXT JTYPE OUT THE BASIC PROGRAM
; NXT  JCONTINUE NEXT LINE

; S15:  TST S16 JCHECK FOR 'RUN'
; DB   'R', 'U', 'N' OR 2000
; DONE MXT JCHECK FOR CR LINE TERMINATOR
; MXT  JCONTINUE NEXT LINE

; S16:  TST S16 JCHECK FOR 'CLEAR', FAILURE IS AN ERROR
; DB   'C', 'L', 'E', 'A' OR 2000
; IJMP  START JREINITIALIZE EVERYTHING!
;     . . .

```

## TINY BASIC, EXTENDED VERSION

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## INTRODUCTION

The version of TINY BASIC (TB) presented here is based on the design noted published in September 1975 PCC (Vol. 4, No. 2). The differences where they exist are noted below. In this issue we shall endeavor to present sufficient information to bring the system up on an ITEL 8080-based computer such as the Altair 8800. Included is an octal listing of our ASCII version of TINY BASIC EXTENDED (TBX). In subsequent issues, structural details will be presented along with a source listing. A Suding-type cassette is now available from the authors (information to follow). We would greatly appreciate comments and suggestions from readers. Unlike some software people out there, we hope you *will* fiddle with TINY BASIC EXTENDED and make it *less Tiny!*

ABBREVIATED COMMAND SET

## TB AND TBX

LET	
PR	
GOTO	
GOSUB	
RET	
IF	
IN	In
LST	TB
RUN	
NEW *	
SZE	
DIM	
FOR	
NXT	

\*CLEAR in original TB

## STANDARD BASIC

LET	
PRINT	
GOTO	
GOSUB	
RETURN	
IF	
INPUT	
LIST	
RUN	
NEW	
SIZE	
DIMENSION	
FOR	
NEXT	

TBX -- HOW IT DIFFERS FROM TB

1. TBX system prompt is a colon ":".
2. Statement label values 1 to 65535.
3. Error correction during line entry:
  - a) Rubout (ASCII 177<sub>8</sub>) to delete a character. Prints a "←".
  - b) Control L (Form Feed ASCII 014<sub>8</sub>) to delete full line.
4. IN Statement: Termination of numeric input is accomplished by SPACE keystroke. All other terminations use CR (Carriage Return).
5. PR Statement: A comma is used for zone spacing while a semicolon produces a single space. A comma or semicolon at the end of a line suppresses CR and LF (Line Feed). To skip a line, use PR by itself.

6. DIM Statement: One or two dimensional arrays permitted. Array arguments can be expressions.

Example: 10 LET V = 10  
20 DIM A(10,10),B(2+V)  
...

Array variables can be used in the same manner as ordinary variables.

7. FOR and NXT Statements: Step equal to 1 only. Iterative limits can be expressions. Nesting permitted. Care must be exercised when exiting a loop prior to completion of indexing. See Example.

Example: 10 LET X = 10  
20 FOR I = 1 to X  
30 LET Y = 2 \* A+B  
40 IF I=Z I=I\$NXT D\$GOTO 60 \*  
50 NXT I  
60 LET Y=3  
...

\* For explanation of ":" see no. 9.

8. Available Functions:

- a) RN: Random number generator. Range 0 ≤ RN ≤ 10,000. No argument permitted.
- b) TB(E): Tab function. In a PR statement, TB(E) prints a number of SPACE's equal to the value of expression "E".

9. The dollar sign can be used to write multiple statement lines.

Example: 10 IN B  
20 LET A=2\*(B+1)\$PRA\$END

When using an IF statement, a "false" condition transfers execution to the next numbered line. Thus in line 40 of the example of no. 7, the chained statements will not be executed unless a "true" condition is encountered.

10. LST Command: Can take anyone of three forms:

- a) LST CR— lists all statements in program
- b) LST a CR— lists only statement labelled a
- c) LST a,b CR— lists all statements between labels a and b inclusive.

11. SZE Command: Prints two decimal numbers equal to:

- a) Number of memory bytes used by current program.
- b) Number of memory bytes remaining.

Note: Array storage included only after first execution of program.

12. Recording Programs on Cassette: Core dumps to cassette should begin at 033350 (split octal) and continue through address stored at

033354 (low byte of address)  
033355 (high byte of address)

Of course these cassette programs should be loaded back at 033350.

IMPLEMENTING TBX

## Memory Allocation:

I. Misc. Storage (I/O Routines) 000000 to 000377\*

II. TBX 020000 to 033377

III. TBX Programs 034000 to upper limit of memory.

\* In our system we maintain a Monitor/Editor in the first 1K byte of memory. 3/4 K is protected and 1/4 K can be used for system RAM. Such a configuration is useful but not necessary.

**External Program Requirements:****1. System Entry Routine --**

ADRS	INST
000000	061}
000001	377}
000002	000}
000003	303}
000004	254}
000005	021}

LXI SP      JMP TBX Entry Point

The stack pointer (SP) must not be in protected memory. If you desire to relocate the SP change the following locations accordingly:

- a) 000001 (SP low) and 000002 (SP high)
- b) 026301 (SP low) and 026302 (SP high)

**2. System Recovery Routine --**

ADRS	INST
000070	303
000071	000
000072	000

**3. Input Subroutine:** Your input subroutine must begin at 000030. It should carry out the following functions:

- a) Move an ASCII character from the input device to register A. The ASCII character should be right justified in A with Parity bit equal to zero.  
Example: "B" keystroke should set A to 102<sub>8</sub>.
- b) Test for ESC keystroke (ASCII 177<sub>8</sub>) and jump if true to 000000. Suggested instructions

```
...      CPI 'ESC'
376}      177
177}      312
312}      000      JPZ System Entry Routine
000}
000}      ...
...
```

- c) Output an echo check of the imputed character.
- d) No registers should be modified except A.

**4. Output Subroutine:** Your output subroutine should begin at 000050. It should move the ASCII character in register A to the output device. Parity bit is zero. No registers including A should be modified.**5. CR-LF Subroutine:** At 000020 you must have a subroutine that will output a CR followed by a LF. Only register A may be modified.**LOADING TBX:**

The octal listing of TBX is reproduced later in the text. Addressing is split octal and gives the address of the first byte of each line. An octal loader of some kind is almost a necessity. Loading by front panel switches would be a considerable chore. A Suding-type cassette is available for \$5, postpaid, from the authors. Send check or money order to: TBX Tape c/o John Arnold, Route 4, Box 52-A, Tyler TX 75701. If you are interested in a Baudot version of TBX, please inquire at the same address.

Use of a cassette tape to store TBX is virtually a necessity. Every effort has been made to protect TBX against self-destruction by nothing is 100% sure!

The highest address available in your system for program storage must be loaded as follows:

026115 XXX<sub>8</sub> low part  
 026116 XXX<sub>8</sub> high part

Example: Suppose you have one 4K board: 026115 377  
 026116 037

**EXECUTING TBX:**

Simply examine 000000 and place the computer in the RUN mode. A colon indicates the system is operative.

**ERROR MESSAGES**

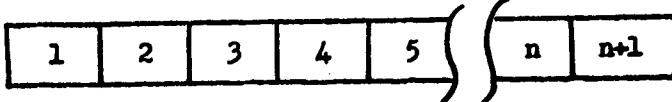
The form of error messages is: ERR α β where α is error number, and β is statement number where error was detected. Label 00000 indicates error occurred in direct execution.

**ERROR NUMBER**

- 1 Input line too long--exceeds 72 characters.
- 2 Numeric overflow on input.
- 3 Illegal character detected during execution.
- 4 No ending quotation mark in PR literal.
- 5 Arithmetic expression too complex.
- 6 Illegal arithmetic expression.
- 7 Label does not exist.
- 8 Division by zero not permitted.
- 9 Subroutine nesting too deep.
- 10 RET executed with no prior GOSUB
- 11 Illegal variable.
- 12 Unrecognizable statement or command.
- 13 Error in use of parentheses.
- 14 Memory depletion.

**EXAMPLE PROGRAM OF TBX**

One example program written in TBX follows. It might assist you in debugging. A TBX line is structured as follows:

**Byte No.**

- 1 & 2 Binary value of label; most significant part in 1.
- 3 Length of text plus 2 in octal.
- 4 thru n Text of line.
- n + 1 CR (015<sub>8</sub>).

After the last line you should find two 377s. At the end of the example run is an octal dump of the program area of memory.

**EXAMPLE PROGRAM IN TBX**

```
1NEW
:10 IN A
:20 PR" TEST A IS ";A
:30 PR
:40 GOTO 10
:LST

00010 IN A
00020 PR" TEST A IS ";A
00030 PR
00040 GOTO 10
:LST 20

00020 PR" TEST A IS ";A
:LST 20,30

00020 PR" TEST A IS ";A
00030 PR
:RUN

? 12 TEST A IS 12
? 356 TEST A IS 356

?
:1DPO1034000 007
034000 000 012,007 040 111 116 040 101
034010 015 000 024 025 040 120 122 042
034020 040 040 124 105 123 124 040 101
034030 040 111 123 040 042 073 101 015
034040 000 036 005 040 120 122 015 000
034050 050 012 040 107 117 124 117 040
034060 061 060 015 377 377 107 022 000
```

TINY BASIC EXTENDED																
OCTAL LISTING																
020000	041	111	020	006	110	337	376	015	023000	227	274	302	021	023	275	302
020010	312	036	020	376	177	312	040	020	023010	023	041	004	032	301	343	305
020020	376	014	312	067	020	167	043	005	023020	311	023	032	147	023	032	157
020030	312	306	026	303	005	020	167	311	023030	350	033	023	301	041	022	032
020040	053	004	076	077	337	303	005	020	023040	343	305	247	311	305	104	115
020050	332	000	021	076	057	276	322	000	023050	361	033	160	043	161	043	042
020060	021	303	371	020	000	000	000	327	023060	033	301	175	376	177	330	303
020070	076	072	357	076	015	062	007	020	023070	026	305	052	361	033	053	106
020080	303	000	020	000	000	000	000	000	023100	042	361	033	146	175	376	100
020090	000	114	123	124	040	066	060	060	023110	301	320	303	325	026	178	057
020100	054	066	062	060	015	015	042	124	023120	173	057	157	043	311	315	071
020110	105	123	124	061	042	044	120	122	023130	174	267	362	147	023	315	115
020120	040	042	105	116	104	042	015	106	023140	076	055	345	315	026	022	341
020130	117	122	040	122	117	127	040	042	023150	101	022	247	311	345	052	352
020140	073	111	015	015	111	124	040	116	023160	104	115	341	012	274	312	174
020150	117	122	105	040	114	111	116	105	023170	320	303	204	023	003	012	275
020160	123	042	015	015	042	015	057	067	023200	220	023	320	013	003	003	012
020170	062	010	000	000	000	000	000	000	023210	117	322	163	023	004	303	163
020180	000	032	376	060	330	376	072	320	023220	013	140	151	311	315	071	023
020190	346	017	311	000	000	000	000	000	023230	154	023	353	312	022	023	303
020200	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	023240	026	325	076	077	315	026	022
020210	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	023250	040	357	062	007	020	315	000
020220	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	023260	021	111	020	032	376	055	041
020230	325	032	376	040	023	312	271	020	023270	000	312	312	023	315	331	020
020240	033	041	000	000	376	100	332	320	023300	044	023	076	015	062	007	020
020250	200	042	350	033	060	321	311	000	023310	247	311	023	315	311	020	115
020260	315	331	020	042	350	033	067	321	023320	023	303	277	023	032	376	040
020270	311	315	221	020	376	012	320	023	023330	312	324	023	033	306	300	320
020280	104	115	051	051	011	051	332	311	023340	157	046	244	315	044	023	067
020290	026	117	036	000	011	303	331	020	023350	311	032	376	040	023	312	351
020300	325	052	350	033	104	115	041	111	023360	033	376	100	322	310	023	376
020310	020	076	071	043	276	303	050	020	023370	310	041	000	000	303	124	024
020320	345	026	001	076	015	276	312	016	024000	000	023	055	050	007	056	073
020330	021	024	043	303	005	021	172	062	024010	000	001	002	030	001	000	000
020340	356	033	321	052	352	033	176	270	024020	002	000	001	000	013	000	010
020350	312	052	021	322	064	021	043	043	024030	000	000	000	000	070	000	025
020360	175	206	157	322	026	021	044	303	024040	000	000	000	000	000	000	000
020370	026	021	043	176	271	512	170	021	024050	324	046	004	000	002	000	001
020380	300	021	043	156	147	303	257	021	024060	003	000	003	000	126	053	000
020390	346	077	107	043	116	043	345	140	024070	016	000	004	000	000	023	000
020400	151	303	257	021	376	300	322	000	024100	032	023	376	040	312	100	024
020410	022	346	077	107	043	116	043	032	024110	376	015	310	376	044	310	314
020420	223	376	040	312	327	021	033	325	024120	026	023	076	001	315	331	020
020430	355	032	376	200	322	363	021	276	024130	044	023	311	315	071	023	106
020440	043	023	312	341	021	321	140	151	024140	146	150	153	044	023	247	311
020450	303	257	021	346	177	276	302	355	024150	071	023	114	105	315	071	023
020460	043	163	043	072	356	033	074	167	024160	043	161	247	311	035	372	034
020470	021	043	023	303	152	021	321	311	024170	023	321	076	001	311	023	000
021200	312	207	021	043	303	175	021	043	024200	315	071	023	104	115	315	071
021210	353	052	354	033	043	104	115	341	024210	011	315	044	023	247	311	315
021220	032	167	043	023	172	270	302	220	024220	023	315	115	023	104	115	315
021230	021	173	271	302	220	021	053	042	024230	023	011	315	044	023	247	311
021240	354	033	072	356	033	376	001	302	024240	325	006	000	315	071	023	174
021250	361	020	321	311	041	002	032	176	024250	374	301	024	353	315	071	023
021260	176	200	322	314	021	376	100	322	024260	267	374	301	024	315	306	005
021270	300	021	043	156	147	303	257	021	024270	314	115	023	315	044	023	247
021280	346	077	107	043	116	043	345	140	024290	311	004	315	115	023	311	305
021290	151	303	257	021	376	300	322	000	024300	115	041	000	000	076	021	062
021300	022	346	077	107	043	116	043	032	024320	033	170	037	107	171	037	117
021310	333	024	376	200	322	363	021	276	024330	333	024	031	174	037	147	175
021320	355	032	376	200	322	363	021	276	024340	157	072	363	033	075	312	356
021330	043	023	312	341	021	321	140	151	024350	062	363	033	303	321	024	140
021340	303	257	021	346	177	276	302	355	024360	301	311	325	006	000	315	071
021350	201	353	301	023	043	303	257	021	024370	174	267	374	301	024	353	315
021360	346	077	107	043	116	043	345	140	025000	023	174	267	374	301	024	357
021370	152	303	257	021	376	300	322	000	025010	274	302	020	275	315	333	026
021380	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	025020	315	026	025	303	267	024	305
021390	000	345	325	305	353	016	000	041	025030	001	174	346	100	302	024	025
021400	020	047	315	147	022	041	350	003	025040	004	303	031	025	170	062	363
021410	222	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	025050	104	115	041	000	000	173	117
021420	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	025060	172	230	127	322	117	025	173
021430	077	004	173	225	137	172	234	127	025070	137	172	210	127	051	072	363
021440	327	151	022	173	205	137	172	214	025100	075	312	115	025	662	363	033
021450	127	170	271	310	015	315	201	022	025110	051	353	303	055	025	301	051
021460	311	000	000	000	000	000	306	060	025120	043	072	363	033	075	312	115
021470	022	022	311	325	052	306	033	053	025130	303	104	025	315	071	023	315
021480	104	115	052	304	033	353	033	023	025140	023	315	044	023	247	311	000
021490	327	170	272	302	243	022	171	273	025150	000	325	315	071	023	353	315
021500	220	075	022	032	147	023	032	157	025160	023	345	315	071	023	356	326
021510	315	205	026	023	023	032	376	015	025170	302	262	025	172	346	200	302
021520	312	227	022	305	345	315	026	022	025180	025	174	272	312	147	025	3

026000	303	336	026	305	052	364	033	053	031000	052	354	033	053	104	115	052	376	
026010	106	053	042	364	033	146	175	376	031010	033	011	345	052	366	033	104	115	
026020	164	150	301	320	303	341	026	142	031020	052	352	033	011	301	315	060	031	
026030	153	315	356	025	247	311	315	003	031030	315	101	022	076	040	357	052	366	
026040	026	353	247	311	076	040	315	026	031040	033	104	115	052	354	033	053	315	
026050	022	247	311	000	000	000	041	077	031050	060	031	315	101	022	327	247	311	
026060	226	001	350	033	176	002	175	376	031060	171	225	157	170	234	147	311	052	
026070	033	310	001	043	303	064	026	000	031070	352	033	042	304	033	052	354	033	
026100	000	000	034	001	034	000	040	017	031100	042	306	033	247	311	315	165	031	
026110	100	030	000	000	164	024	377	057	000	031110	042	304	033	043	043	076	015	043
026120	000	056	241	051	321	377	057	377	031120	276	302	117	031	043	043	042	306	
026130	377	041	100	030	042	361	033	041	031130	033	247	311	000	315	165	031	043	
026140	164	024	042	364	033	315	020	027	031140	043	076	015	043	276	302	143	031	
026150	052	352	033	126	043	136	353	000	031150	043	043	042	306	033	315	165	031	
026160	042	350	033	023	023	247	311	076	031160	042	304	033	247	311	315	071	023	
026170	015	357	303	360	022	327	076	017	031170	315	154	023	310	303	330	026	000	
026200	062	360	033	247	311	345	325	305	031200	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	
026210	353	016	377	393	107	022	000	000	031210	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	
026220	327	000	000	000	076	105	357	076	031220	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	
026230	122	331	331	016	040	357	046	000	031230	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	
026240	000	000	000	315	101	022	052	350	031240	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	
026250	033	076	040	357	315	203	026	016	031250	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	
026260	010	041	357	033	021	106	026	032	031260	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	
026270	167	015	302	267	026	041	002	032	031270	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	
026300	061	377	000	303	257	021	056	001	031300	231	310	122	316	330	204	322	300	
026310	001	056	002	001	056	003	001	056	031310	232	330	124	302	132	343	330	300	
026320	004	001	056	005	001	056	006	001	031320	322	300	231	331	215	326	175	322	
026330	056	007	001	056	010	001	056	011	031330	375	232	210	244	326	175	323	034	
026340	001	056	012	001	056	013	001	056	031340	231	351	215	331	067	322	213	322	
026350	014	001	056	015	001	056	016	001	031350	375	132	343	231	366	254	132	343	
026360	056	017	001	056	020	303	216	026	031360	331	134	322	213	032	216	331	109	
026370	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	031370	322	213	032	216	047	041	066	010	
027000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	032000	326	053	326	167	320	070	322	360	
027010	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	000	032010	320	265	032	022	320	360	032	004	
027020	076	012	357	052	115	026	042	366	032020	326	131	232	041	114	105	324	133	
027030	033	311	325	315	071	023	353	315	032030	310	132	340	324	147	322	304	322	
027040	071	023	104	115	315	044	023	353	032040	375	232	074	107	317	232	057	124	
027050	315	044	023	321	305	315	240	024	032050	317	132	343	322	304	273	224	232	
027060	315	071	023	303	072	027	315	071	032060	275	123	125	302	132	343	324	100	
027070	023	345	051	104	115	052	366	033	032070	326	027	323	224	232	112	111	306	
027080	175	221	117	174	230	107	013	052	032100	132	343	133	114	132	343	325	151	
027110	354	033	274	302	120	027	171	275	032110	032	022	233	326	106	117	322	323	
027120	332	360	026	140	151	301	160	053	032120	324	326	363	132	340	324	147	226	
027130	161	104	115	042	366	033	315	071	032130	363	124	317	327	305	132	343	322	
027140	023	161	043	160	247	311	315	071	032140	304	322	375	075	046	062	004	032	
027150	023	053	051	104	115	315	071	023	032150	232	226	120	322	231	322	242	322	
027160	011	315	044	023	247	311	315	071	032160	322	232	173	254	322	232	332	332	
027170	023	053	315	044	023	052	370	033	032170	215	322	375	232	202	273	326	044	
027200	315	044	023	315	240	024	315	200	032200	032	166	326	175	322	304	322	375	
027210	024	303	146	027	032	023	376	040	032210	132	343	323	125	032	161	322	304	
027220	312	214	027	033	306	300	320	007	032220	322	375	000	000	000	000	232	251	
027230	117	023	032	376	050	312	243	027	032230	111	316	133	310	323	241	324	147	
027240	033	247	311	151	046	024	116	043	032240	232	245	254	032	232	322	304	322	
027250	146	151	116	043	106	043	315	044	032250	375	232	264	122	105	324	326	036	
027260	023	140	151	042	370	033	067	311	032260	322	304	322	375	233	200	105	116	
027270	300	325	342	000	000	000	000	000	032270	304	326	167	323	011	232	306	114	
027300	000	000	000	000	000	325	023	032	032300	123	324	031	340	322	375	231	317	
027310	376	015	302	064	030	353	315	044	032310	122	316	322	304	032	020	233	333	
027320	023	321	247	311	325	315	071	023	032320	101	116	327	322	304	032	020	000	
027330	345	116	043	106	315	071	023	333	032330	326	347	232	154	244	323	034	000	
027340	315	071	023	003	172	270	302	361	032340	232	343	275	232	354	255	133	003	
027350	027	173	271	322	361	027	303	006	032350	325	133	032	361	232	357	253	133	
027360	030	345	315	044	023	341	353	315	032360	003	232	372	253	133	003	324	200	
027370	044	023	341	315	044	023	140	151	032370	032	361	233	055	255	133	003	324	
030000	315	044	023	341	247	311	341	315	033000	216	032	361	153	027	233	016	252	
030010	044	023	140	151	315	044	023	321	033010	133	027	324	240	033	005	233	055	
030020	247	311	376	044	302	314	026	303	033020	257	133	027	324	362	033	005	330	
030030	033	023	032	376	040	023	312	032	033030	032	033	035	031	300	327	214	033	
030040	030	033	306	300	320	325	023	032	033040	047	133	254	324	133	322	300	323	
030050	306	300	321	320	376	015	310	376	033050	324	033	057	324	133	322	300	323	
030060	040	310	067	311	376	044	312											