SOFTWARE FILE

(continued from page 185) changes in length.

The program is written so that it will run on a Vic-20 of any size and with changes to the sound routine in line 325 and the screen colour Poke in line 705 will run on the CBM-64. The number of Data satements can be increased on expanded machines provided they are of the same length. As the program does not change in length when data is added it can be re-saved in the same space on the tape. It is considerably more convient to use the program if it is the first program on the tape as it is necessary to Save the program whenever new data is added.

The following is a short explanation of the program lines, more in order of execution than the way they are listed.

Lines 700 to 730 look for the start of Basic and print the menu. The option selected is input in line 740 and is checked for validity,

A model universe

W Roy Masefield, Holland-on-Sea, Essex.



THE MOTION of two bodies under the influence of gravity — the so-called two-body problem of classical mechanics — lends itself very well to demonstration by computer. The mathematics of the problem is quite straightforward, involving nothing more than Newton's Laws of Force and Motion. The possible demonstrations include such things as the capture of one astronomical body by another; orbits of satellites; behaviour of binary stars and so on, given only the starting data.

When the program is Run, the data is called for, and to give you some idea of suitable

the appropriate subroutine is selected in line 750.

The search option is handled in line 390 but most of the work is done in lines 330 to 380. Line 330 reads the Data statements and look for an asterisk. The check for a match with the search string is done in line 340. The subroutine call to line 310 checks for a full screen of records. If the screen is full this in turn calls the subroutine in line 300 which suspends operations until Return is pressed. Line 360 prints 'That's all' when the search is exhausted. Line 370 produces the "No Record Found" message and sounds the tone - line 325. Lines 400 to 430 print out all the records, checking for full screens and waiting at the end of the list for another Return. Lines 440 to 570 handle data input. The size of the list is checked in line 440 to see if there is enough room for another entry. Lines 450 to 490 input the information to be stored and fill the spaces with hyphens.

The check for C = 4 — option 4 — is present as lines 450 to 490 are used again in the editing option. The first empty record is found in lines 500 to 520 and lines 530 calculates the address to start Poking the data into place n line 540. Lines 560 and 570 do the same for the first data statement — line 200 which is the number of records + 1000. The edit option is managed in lines 580 to 620 mostly by using parts of other routines, this allows a lot of program to be squeezed into a small space. Lines 630 and 640 end the program, if data has been added or altered line 640 prompts for the tape to be rewound and then does the Save.

Lines 5 to 260 must be typed in exactly as in the listing — including the Rem — but with no space between the line number and the first character of data. The data in lines 202 to 260 consist of twenty two asterisks. When the program is Run your input data will appear in these lines.



values to start with, I suggest you try out those given in figures 1 to 5. Then, when you get the feel of it, to try your own values. Angles, by the way, are entered in degrees the program converts these to radians as required by the ZX-Spectrum — with zero being the east direction. Negative values for the angles are legitimate.

The initial positions of the two bodies are entered as x and y co-ordinates, these being the normal pixel co-ordinates of the Spectrum, but do not go above x=170because the right-hand quarter of the screen is (continued on page 189)

5 REM "MU" Model Universe	110 LET fg=g*m1*m2/((x2-x1)*(x2
6 REM © W.R.Masefield 1983	-x1)+(y2-y1)*(y2-y1))
10 DEM Toput Data	120 TE x2-x1 THEN (ET ps;-pt/2)
20 CLS : PRINT "MODEL UNIVERSE	GO TO 140
": PRINT	130 LET phi=ATN ABS ((y2-y1)/(x)
30 INPUT "First Body: Mass? ")	2-X1))
m1,"Velocity? ";v1,"Angle? ";a1,	140 LET f1x=fg*COS phi*SGN (X2-
"x coord? ";x1,"y coord? ";y1,"S	X1): LET f2x=-f1x
econd Body: Mass? ";m2,"Velocity	150 LET f1y=f9*SIN phi*SGN (y2-
? ";v2,"Angle? ";a2,"x coord? ";	y1): LET f2y=-f1y
"2."" coord? ";u2."	160 LET s1y-f1y/m1. LET s0y-f0y
Constant? ";g: CLS	/m2
40_PRINT_TAB_23; "M1=";m1:_PRIN	170 LET s1x=v1x*dt+a1x*dt*dt/2:
T TAB 23;"V1=";V1: PRINT TAB 23; "A1=";a1: PRINT TAB 23;"X1=";X1: PRINT TAB 23;"Y1=";Y1: PRINT TA	180 LET v1x=v1x+a1x+dt: LET v2x =v2x+a2x+dt
B 23;"M2=";m2: PRINT TAB 23;"V2=	190 LET aly=fly/ml: LET a2y=f2y
";V2: PRINT TAB 23;"A2=";a2: PRI	/m2
NT TAB 23;"A2=";a2: PRI	2000 LET clu=vluxdt+pluxdtxdt/2
;"y2=";y2: PRINT TAB 24;"G=";g	LET s2y=v2y*dt+a2y*dt*dt/2
50_LET_dt=0.1: LET_a1=a1*PI/18	210 LET v1y=v1y+a1y*dt: LET v2y
0: LET a2=a2*PI/180: LET x1=x1+1	=V29+829*81
0: LET x2=x2+10	300 REM Plot
60 CIRCLE x1.41.2: CIRCLE x2.4	310 PLOT x1,91: DRAW s1x,s19: P
2,2 70 LET v1x=v1*COS a1: LET v2x=	LOT x2,y2: DRAW s2x,s2y 320 LET x1=x1+s1x: LET x2=x2+s2 v
80 LET v1y=v1*SIN a1: LET v2y=	[°] 330 LET y1=y1+s1y: LET y2=y2+s2
v2*SIN a2	^y
100 REM Processing	340 60 10 100

SOFTWARE FILE

(continued from page 187)

reserved for displaying the starting data. When all the data is entered, the program starts to plot the paths. It is not fast, but fascinating to watch. Plotting continues until one of the curves runs off the edge of the screen area, but plotting can be stopped at any point by Break.

A look, now, at some of the possible demonstrations:

Figure 1: This shows a small mass orbiting a much larger one.

Figure 2: In this, a small body approaches a more massive body at an oblique angle to the direction of the gravitational force. The larger body is initially at rest. The smaller body is pulled out of its straight-line path and traces a near-parabola, and the larger body is given some motion and it begins to trace out a curved path.

Figure 3: Binary stars are illustrated here.

One star is larger than the other, and each has been given the required tangential velocity for a circular orbit round the common centre of gravity. Try other velocities and see what happens:

Figure 4: This is an Earth-Moon simulation. The larger body is given a velocity as if in orbit round the sun. As we are looking at only a short piece of this orbit, the lack of curvature does not matter. The smaller mass is given the velocity calculated to keep it in orbit, plus the velocity of the larger.

The resultant paths are fair approximations to what actually happens with the Earth-Moon system; the moon performs a series of loops and the Earth, because of the mutual gravitational action, does a series of cycloidlike loops. Certainly, the Earth's path is not a smooth one.

Figure 5: For fun, we may see what happens when the force of gravity is repulsive

instead of attractive, i.e., when we have the anti-gravity of science-fiction.

To do this, enter a negative value for the gravitational constant. The figure shows two equal masses approaching each other almost, but not quite, in a direct line. See if you can interpret what is happening if they *are* in an exact head-on course.

Adventurous programmers might like to develop this program further by including action under electric forces. In this case, instead of F_g , we shall have F_F , which depends on the electric charges (q) carried by the bodies:

$$F_{E} = \frac{kq_{1}q_{2}}{d^{2}}$$

The motions resulting from this force behave exactly as for gravitation, i.e., they depend on the masses of the bodies.



Last month David Horne showed you the board. This month he illustrates the move logic.

As A REMINDER, figure 1 depicts the playing board and figure 2 is the Basic program used to enter the machine code. This month we will start with the main driver. Enter Fast mode and change line 10 to read:

10 FOR A = 16681 or 16779

Run 10 and start entering the code shown in figure 3. The next routine to enter will be the keyboard controller, after typing Save "4". Change line 10 to read:

10 For A = 16860 to 16916 Run 10, start entering the code shown in figure 4 and then Save "5". Enter Slow mode and type Run — be prepared for a crash.

The machine is waiting for you to type either a W or B, and will respond by placing the appropriate symbol towards the top right of your screen. Try entering any letter you like first, to ensure that the code rejects all other inputs.

Now enter a number between 1 and 8, followed by a letter A to H at which point just about anything could have happened. The reason for the above exercise is to determine if the keyboard controller is working, that is, selecting which keys will be accepted as inputs.

At this point, it becomes very much more difficult to provide the reader with a comprehensive set of diagnostics. Suffice to say that we are breaking each party down into small routines, which can be re-entered one routine at a time in an effort to isolate the offending error.

Alternatively you may wish to try the program given in figure 7 of last month's article. Assuming after much murmuring, you appear to have this bit correctly entered, our next routine is the address converter. This takes the alphanumeric input and translates it to a board position. Change line 10 to read: 10 For A = 16801 to 16859

Run 10 and start entering the code shown in figure 5 and Save "6". The address converter has a little routine tacked on to the end which effectively checks to see whether the correct piece is being moved. So now enter Slow mode and Run the program. By the way, it will crash again. Enter your opening colour — B or W — then try spare spaces and the wrong colour positions to ensure that these entries are not acceptable. Now try a correct position, at which point the system will crash.

Finally, the move logic. This is going to be a bit of a marathon. You will be entering 170 numbers, around 15 minutes work. Change line 10 to read:

10 FOR A = 16917 to 17087

Run 10 and start entering the code shown in figure 6, and finally Save "7". Enter Slow mode, Delete lines 10 to 15, and Save "ZXCHESS", type Run and hope!

To help with error corrections look for the following: if the pawns do not move correctly, then look at the code from 17021 to 17087; problems with any other pieces, look at code 16981 to 17020. There is a piece selector from 16949 to 16980, if just one appears incorrect. The move tables are at 16926 to 16941, with a part of the pawn table at 16778 to 16780.

Now for a brief outline covering the important functions of the machine-code routines presented this month. We started at address 16681 with a call to a subroutine — 16860 — which tests for which key has been pressed, returning with a value in "a" which is compared with B(39) or W(60) to see who should start. Any other response will start the test for key depressed sequence again.

Dependent upon B or W being pressed, a black or white square is placed in the "whose move now" position located by routine DP1. The next routine at address 16701 overwrites the From and To data at the bottom of the board in preparation for the new data entry and is effectively the start of the move routine.



Continuing, we have a call to subroutine KT, the routine -16801 — which accepts a number between 1 and 8 followed by a letter between A and H, puts them in the From position and transforms the pair of them to an address on the board by means of the address converter routine -16806.

The board address is then tested to see whether the contents of the address is either the current mover's piece, an opposition piece, an empty square or part of the backcloth, and, depdenent upon which, "a" is set to a specific number. If it is not one of the current mover's pieces, it returns to the start of the move routine. If it is a current mover's piece, the From position is Saved and the number of legal moves for the position is set to zero.

The piece-move routine – 16942 – is called. This puts all the legal board positions that the From piece can move to into a table. The next data entry is also decoded by subroutine KT. providing a board position, and a status code of that position in "a". The "a" register is interrogated to see if the To *(continued on page 83)*

Figure 4	4. Keyb	oard co	ntroller.			295	187	1 50	15	255	241	242	240	16	14	
2	62	255	189	4.8	248	188	40	17	239	29	227	225	31	243	13	
245	68	<u>Z</u> Z	205	189	~ 7	126	201	126	230	127	254	53	4.0	72	14	
213	20	· 2	121	200	245	202	193	1	6	8	33	38	65	254	51	
1680		0	16	10	240	203	24	40	31	33	30	50	254	40	40	
239	209	209	225	213	119	43	201	160	74'2	204	94	40	-	0	+	
229	17	29		205	238	65	229	254	55	40	з	33	34	66	123	
17	38	8	205	538	65	201		134	245	229	197	203	127	32	24	
Figure	5. Addi	ess con	verter.					205	181	65	254	.2	48	17	205	
. igai e			229	285	6	66	225	.21	66	254	.0	40	10	193	225	
176	314	20		~~~	46			121	234	*	46	3	241	24	224	
1681	3	20	11	74	10	T\2	TSA	103	-222	24.1	.35	16	217	201	126	
16	253	198	31	43	78	144	295	238	128	49	5	33	35	66	24	
140	65	79	-9	126	229	254	128		33	140	65	22	3	123	134	
6	1	40	23	254	0	40	19	229	245	283	127	32	24	205	181	
4	254	8	40	14	4	230	128	65	254	1	32	24	122	254	1	
197_	205	144	65	78	185	193	40	170	54						~~	
1685	54		* ~ ~		0.04			32	12	205	21	66	123	254	30	
<i>e</i>	0	63	150	623	201			0C 4 7	21	234	218	201	122	241	223	
Figure	6. Mov	e logic.					33	196	21	66	- 24	241	241	225	95	
62	64	52	126	133	111	113	201	24	205	D. Hor	ne. 1983.					

(continued from page 81)

board position is empty or has an opposition piece present. If neither of these two is true the code returns to the start of move routines. If true, the board address is compared -16745.

With each of the legal move positions tabulated by the From routine. Absence of a match restarts the routine again. A match leads on to the move routine -16759 — which recalls the From position, gets its contents and replaces them with zero, the contents are then put in the 'To' position and routine B/W called. This rewrites all the black vacant squares and finally the "whose move now" square is changed followed by a jump back to the start-of-the-move routine.

The listing provides for a double move for pawns on their initial set-up ranks. The piece moves are controlled by the tables -16926 – which are called -16949 – to permit the appropriate movement associated with that piece. See figure 7.

Figure	e 7.			
16681	CALL TKP CP N JP Z DIS CP N JP NZ DIS XOR A JP DIS LD A N CALL DPI LD (HL) A	205 254 40 254 32 175 24 62 205 119	220 39 7 60 245 2 128 144	65
16701	LD A N	62	8	(Move Routine)
	CALL DP5 LD (HL) A DEC HL LD (HL) A CALL DP4 LD (HL) A DEC HL LD (HL) A INC HL	205 119 43 119 205 119 43 119 35	152	65
	CALL KT CP N	205 254	161 3	65
	LD (NN) HL	32 34 175	234 60	64
		50	62	64
16731	CALL MOVE CALL DP5 CALL KT CP N EX DE HL	205 205 205 254 235	46 152 161 2	66 65 65
	JP NC DIS LD HL NN DEC (HL) LD A (HL) INC A JP Z DIS ADD L LD L A LD A (HL) CP C IP NZ DIS	48 33 53 126 60 40 133 111 126 183 32	212 62 204 242	64
	LD HL (NN) LD A (HL) LD (HL) N LD (DE) A	42 126 54 18	60 0	64
	CALL B/W CALL DPI LD A (HL) ADD N LD (HL) A JP DIS	205 205 126 198 119 24	156 144 128 179	64 65
16801	PUSH HL CALL KYBD POP HL	229 205 225	6	(KT) 66

16806 LD A (HL) 126 (Address AND N 230 127 CP N Converter) 254 53 SUB N 214 28 JP Z DIS 40 72 LD B A 71 LD C N 14 1 IDCN 14 15 LD B N 6 8 XOR A 175 LD HL NN 33 38 66 ADD A C 129 CP N JP Z DIS 254 51 40 21 DJNZ DIS 16 253 33 30 66 ADD N 198 31 LD HL NN 254 48 DEC HL 43 CP N JP Z DIS LD B (HL) 70 40 14 SUB B 144 LD C B 72 CP N 254 54 16821 CALL DPZ 205 140 65 (Test) JP Z DIS 40 9 79 LD C A LD B N 6 4 ADD HL BC 9 126 CP N 254 55 IDA(HI)JP Z DIS 40 3 PUSH H L 229 LD HL NN 33 34 CP N 254 128 66 LD B N 6 16981 LD A E 123 (Piece 1 JP Z DIS 40 23 move CP N 254 0 routine) JP Z DIS 40 19 ADD A (HL) 134 NC B 4 PUSH AF 245 CP N 254 8 PUSH HL 229 JP Z DIS 40 14 PUSH BC 197 INC B 4 BIT 7A 203 127 AND N 230 128 JP NZ DIS 32 24 205 181 65 PUSH BC 197 CALL NN CALL DPI 205 144 65 CP N 254 2 JP NC DIS 17 LD C (HL) 78 48 CALL ADDLIST 205 21 66 CP C 185 254 0 POP BC 193 CP N JP Z DIS 40 IP 7 DIS 40 2 10 6 ō POP BC 193 LD B N 120 POP HL 225 IDAB POP HL LD A C 121 225 CP N 254 201 RET 1 JP Z DIS 16860 CALL NN 205 187 2 (TKP) 40 5 LD A N 62 255 POP AF 241 CP L 189 JR DIS 224 24 248 JP Z DIS 40 POP BC 193 CP H 188 POP HL 225 JP Z DIS 40 245 POP AF 241 LD B H 68 INC HL 35 LD C L 77 DJNZ DIS 16 217 CALL NN 205 189 7 201 RET LD A (HL) 126 17021 LD A (HL) 126 (Pawn RET 201 move 16878 PUSH DE 213 routine) 66 LD B D 230 128 AND N LD C E 75 JP Z DIS 40 5 PUSH BC 197 LD HL NN 33 35 66 CALL NN 205 220 65 JR DIS 24 3 POP BC 193 33 140 65 LD HL NN CP C 185 22 LD D N 3 JP Z DIS 40 6 LD A E 123 INC C 12 ADD A (HL) 134 DJNZ DIS 16 245 PUSH HL 229 POP DE 209 PUSH AF 245 JP DIS 24 239 BIT 7 A 203 127 16895 POP DE 209 JP NZ DIS 32 24 POP DE 209 205 181 65 CALL NN POP HL 225 CP N 254 1 PUSH DE 213 JP NZ DIS 32 24 LD (HL) A 119 LD A D 122 DEC HL 43 CP N 254 1 RET 201 JP NZ DIS 32 12 205 21 CALL ADDLST 66 16902 PUSH HL 123 229 (KYBD) LD A E 29 8 LD DE NN 17 CP N 254 30 CALL NN 205 238 65 JP C DIS 56 19 PUSH HL 229 CP N 254 90 LD DE NN 17 38 JP NC DIS 8 48 15 CALL NN 205 238 65 POP AF 241 POP HL RET 201 225 16917 LD HL NN 33 62 64 INC HL 43 (ADDLIST) DEC D 21 INC (HL) 52 JP NZ DIS 32 218 LD A (HL) 126 RET 201 ADD I 133 LD A D 122 LD L A 111 CP N 254 LD (HL) C 113 CALL NZ ADDLST 196 21 66 RFT 201 JR DIS 24 241 16926 1 15 -1 -15 -14 -16 16 14 16934 17 -17 29 -29 -31 31 -13 13 POP AF 241 POP HL 225 16942 LD A (HL) 126 (Piece IDFA 95 move) JR DIS 24 205 D. Horne. 1983.

Just when Earth thought its defences were secure the invaders discover machine code. Now Chris Mortimer passes on the secret to 16K ZX-81 owners.

THIS GAME has 40 deadly manoeuvring Invaders, three laser bases, five defence shields, increasing speed, and an on-screen updated score written completely in machine code to ensure fast and exciting action. The machine code is stored in one long Rem statement which is 810 characters long. Due to the fact that a Rem of this length would be hard to enter direct from the keyboard, try it this way. First, enter the first line:

1 REM @ 94 characters @

Second, create lines 2 to 8 by editing line 1. Third, enter line 9

9 REM @ 10 characters @ Four.

POKE 16512,3 POKE 16511,44

Fifth, enter the rest of the program in listing 1. Listing 2 contains the hex dump of the actual program. This listing is in hexadecimal, explained in chapter 24 of the ZX manual.

It is divided up into sections of 100 units, each preceded by the address of the first unit in both decimal and hexadecimal. There are two ways to start to enter a section of the machine code. To enter the start address in hex, run the program. To enter the start address in decimal you must use the following procedure:

LET X EQUAL THE ADDRESS REQUIRED GOTO 50

This will have the same effect as entering the address in hex and will be especially useful when it comes to debugging the program.

Any number of the units may be entered at one time but they must be entered as pairs and not single characters. If the program ends with an error code 5/100 it just means that the screen has been filled, but it is essential that Cont is operated or the last units entered may be lost. The program may be saved at any time as long as the next part to be entered is remembered. Otherwise it may take some time to find where you last got to. It is advisable to save the program at several points in case anything goes wrong.

Once all the program has been entered, Save a couple of copies then you are ready to try it out. Type:

RAND USR 17247

This will jump to the start of the machine code and should produce a picture on the screen just like that of the space invaders. If it does, then congratulations. You have managed the near impossibility of entering a machine-code.



program correctly first time. If not, then I Listing 1. hope that the following information will help you debug it. First, though, here is how to change the program into its final form. The final form of the program is made by deleting all the lines except the first - it is important that you do not even edit this line as it will result in some 2064 4 RE 9002020 9000000 9000000 code being lost. This is done by entering the line number of the line you wish to replace and then pressing Newline. New must not be di natio





used as it will delete line 1. Once this is done line 10 is entered: 10 RAND USR 17247

The program is now complete and can be saved. It is advisable to keep a copy of the program with the hex loader attached as several modifications are suggested later. The program can now be started by the command Run. The command keys are:

The hex loader listed in listing 1 has an advantage over some hex loaders because it includes a hex lister from 300. Like the hex loader it will accept starting addresses in either decimal or hexadecimal, except that the address to Goto, if decimal is used, is 340. If you own a ZX Printer you may find it

easier to track down a fault if you take a listing and compare it with that in listing 2. Any difference in the Rem statement is a fault, but it should be possible to approximate where in the program the fault is from its position in the Rem.

For the rest, the only way to do it is to slowly search through the program comparing it with the listing. The hex lister will give the address of the unit being looked at in decimal. Knowing this it will be possible to correct any errors by using the hex loader and addressing it in decimal as I explained earlier.

The program is built up of several subroutines which are called in turn by the main routine, the Driver. These subroutines are: Screen - 40B3 - this routine prints the screen and invaders. Any fault in the screen layout means there is an error here. Keybd -4143 — this is the routine which finds out which key you are pressing and responds by moving the base or firing a missile.

MVMIS - 418B - this routine moves the missiles up and the bombs down and checks if they have hit anything and adjusts everything accordingly. If the bombs do not move, or the program crashes when the bombs reach the ground then the error is in this routine.

MVINV - 4273 - this routine moves the invaders across and down the screen. If the program crashes when the invaders reach the edge of the screen or disappear on reaching the bottom then the error is here.

DELAY - 4355 - this routine is the one which allows the invaders to increase speed. This is done by repeating a loop a number of times dependent on the score.

Finally, a couple of modifications for those who are never satisfied. The following set of Pokes will reverse the keyboard arrangement:

POKE	16711,109
POKE	16719,92
POKE	16733,76
POKE	16762,93
e keyboa	ard layout:
P	- right

left 1-5 - fire

this make th

For those who, unlike me, can get very high scores on these games this one can be made much harder by increasing the number of bombs dropped every time. This is done by

- the following method: POKE 17301,7 To c To double the difficulty To multiply the difficulty by POKE 17301,15 five.

Listing 1. 16514-253 203 16516-59 246 16518-205 6520-2 221 16522-33 142 5524-64 201 95 6526-237 6628-1 1 6530-25 62 16532-245 16534-181 16536-205 16538-2 2 205 2146 205 16540-32 2 33 6542-221 6544-165 64 6546-195 164 6548-2 211 16550-253 58 16552-40 64 16554-198 16556-50 194 40 6558-64 205 18560-146 2 32 6562-205 6564-2 221 16566-33° 16568-64 14 195 16570-164 2 Listing 2. REM FOR A=16514 TO 16571 10 INPUT 8 30 SCROLL PRINT 40 R ,8 AAA 50 80



Figure 1. An exaggerated illustration of TV screen scanning. The unbroken line is the active line, the dotted line is the line retrace and the long line from bottom right to top left is the end-of-screen retrace. The lines on the next screen of information will be in the gaps betwen these lines.

	_
 	—

Figure 2. The even lines are transmitted in the first screen of information. The odd – dotted – lines are transmitted in the second screen of information.



THE CULMINATION of this article will be a machine-code program for any memory size ZX-81 which will allow you to run Basic programs in Slow mode at twice the normal speed. It does this by creating an intermediary between Fast and Slow mode. The operating characteristics are similar to those of slow mode except that there is a slight lack of contrast and some screen flicker is introduced.

The program in listing 2 is a hexadecimal loader program for entering the machine code. Line 1 is a Rem statment followed by 70 Xs. The actual machine code is shown in listing 1. Each byte should be entered, followed by Newline. Care should be taken to ensure that each byte is entered into the correct address. When you have finished, delete all lines except the line 1 Rem statement which now holds the machine code. Save a version on tape. Enter: RAND USR 16514

and Newline. If all is well then characters should appear to be composed of small dots and the screen should flicker slightly. The machine will return to Slow mode if Fast, Slow, Pause, Copy, LList or LPrint are used; it will also return to slow mode if a program line is entered.

A program must contain the Rem statement if it is to use this new mode. The statement RAND USR 16514

can be used as a program line as well as a direct command. The program has many uses and existing software can easily be converted to use this new facility.

Normally the ZX-81 spends 75 percent of its time on updating the display. My program decreases this to only 50 percent. The consequences of this are that some display flicker is introduced and the display loses some of its contrast. To understand how the program works, it helps to know a bit about how a TV works. A television display is made up of a fast-moving beam of electrons which bombards the phosphor-coated screen and makes it glow. The amount the phosphor (continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

glows is proportional to the intensity of the electron beam which is controlled, in this case, by the computer.

The beam moves too fast for the human eye to see its individual movements. The beam travels in an ordered and logical way in order to be sure that it visits every part of the screen. Its movement can be likened to reading a book. It starts at the top left-hand corner and travels horizontally from left to right. When it reaches the extreme right-hand side it flies back to the left hand side, sufficiently below the previous scan line to allow another scan line to be inserted between the first two later.

The beam carries on doing this until it reaches the bottom right-hand corner, then covers the whole screen again, except this time it is filling the gaps between the first set of scan lines. When the beam reaches the bottom right-hand corner again it will return to the top and the entire cycle will be repeated again.

The ZX-81 signal starts at the top by transmitting 55 white lines, followed by 192 lines which contain the actual active screen area. Each character is eight lines high and there are 24 rows of characters: eight times 24 equals 192.

Then there are another 55 white lines. This adds up to 302 lines which is about half of 625 lines — the total number of lines displayed by television receivers in this country. It is not exactly half because some extra blank lines are transmitted while the computer is reading the

Disassembled ma	achine-code listing.	
	SET 6,(IY+59) CALL 519 LD IX,LABEL A	This puts the machine into SLOW mode Set interrupt vector to start of new display routine
	RET	Return to Basic
LABEL A	LD A,R LD BC,6401 LD A,245	Output the display. This only
	CALL 658	nappens on even lines.
	CALL 544	Read keyboard and increment frames counton
	LD IX LABEL B	Set interrupt vector to start
	JP 676	Return to interrupted program.
LABEL B	OUT 253,A	Makes sure that all future interrupts will be of the non-maskable type.
	LD A,(16424)	Number of blank lines above or below active screen.
	ADD A,194	Add an extra 194 lines
	CD (1642477A CALL 658	Kestores new value Initiator the value inte
		the system.
	CALL 544	Read keyboard and increment frames counter
	LD IX,LABEL A	Let next interrupt be to the even line routine
	JP 676	Return to interrupted program.
kevboard — whi	ich it does 50 times ev	ery I television display hardware. If some way

keyboard — which it does 50 times every second — and incrementing the Frames counter.

Exactly the same picture is transmitted on both the odd and even screens of the signal. The ZX-81 actually executes the program during the 110 blank lines. The rest of the time its services are needed to supervise the television display hardware. If some way of increasing the number of blank lines, without seriously reducing the picture quality, could be found then program would run much faster.

The best method is to only transmit the picture on the even lines and to transmit blank lines during the whole of the odd screen.





EVEN WITH A 16K RAMpack the memory space of a ZX-81 is rapidly used up by programs containing large amounts of text. Adventure games and programs with Help messages or long instructions can often not be squeezed in at all. What is needed is a way of compressing text before storage so that it occupies much less memory space and then expanding just those sections required at a particular time, back to their original form.

Information can be compressed insofar as it is predictable; that is if we can find, for instance, sequences of letters that frequently occur in the text, we can code the whole sequence as one character each time it occurs. ZX-Compander works by storing certain pairs of characters in the message as single bytes. This method allows a maximum compression of 50 percent if all the message is composed of those pairs of letters which are being coded.

Each character recognised by the ZX-81 is stored as a single byte in memory. the noninverted letters, numbers and most of the punctuation and arithmetic symbols have codes in the range 0 to 63. Thus of the 256 possible character codes 192 are not used in normal English, these codes are thus available for defining the pairs of letters we wish to encode.

ZX-Compander operates by searching through the text for any of the 18 characters stored in location 16514 to 16529, when one is found the next character is checked to see if it matches any of the 12 characters stored in locations 16514 to 16525.

If such a match is found the first character of the pair is replaced by a character whose code — in the range 64 to 255 — is calculated from the codes of the letters in the pair. The other member of the pair is then overwritten by the rest of the text being moved one

character down in memory. This movement does not actually shorten the whole text string, it leaves the compressed text followed by a number of identical characters.

The character repeated at the end is the last character of the original text — this will in fact always be "\$" - the number of repeats being equal to the number of times the message has been coded and moved down in the memory. Thus the text will be shortened by one character for every pair found, while the string remains the same length in memory. The actual compression occurs when the machine-code routine returns to Basic.

The BC register pair - whose contents is returned as the argument of the USR function - contains the length of the compressed text. The original string is thus shortened by a line of the form:

LET A\$ = A\$(TO USR 16621) The reason why 16 characters are sought out initially and only a subset of 12 of these is accepted for the second member of the pair is that with only 192 $(192 = 16 \times 12)$ codes free we cannot uniquely represent 256 (256 = 16 * 16) pairs.

		-
4 4 5 4 1	~	
Listina	2.	

Listing 2					
18515 18520	42 51	57 56	38 45	52 55	48
16525	49 - 037	53	44 16	40 64	100
16535	5	3 Ro	19 948	26	1954 203
16545	201	26	254	13.	192
16555	201	33	146	204 54	50 10
16565	201	40 205	146	∠೦೦ 64	58
1657Ø 16575	123 8	64 19	71 26	5 254	40 13
1658Ø 16585	4Ø 26	247 254	24 13	248 200	19 254
16590 16595	64 15	56 205	19 172	245 64	23Ø 215
16600	241 203	203	63 203	2 0 3 53	63 205
16510	172	<u></u> . 84	215	24	225

The expansion section of the program reverses the above proceedure except that the decode result is printed directly onto the screen. This allows the whole memory to be filled with program and data without having to leave an indefinite amount of space available for holding decompressed text.

The compression which can be achieved using the program depends on the careful matching of the first 12 of the 16 characters to the text being coded - the last four have much less impact but are worth considering. The letters used in the listed program are the 12 most common letters in English -ETAOINSHRDLU — plus the space character and three other common letters - GCY. The space character is placed at the start of the list to speed the search as it is frequently the most common character in a text.

As your text may contain many numbers or symbols the program has been designed so that the only alteration needed to allow different sets of characters to be recognised is for the relevant character codes to be Poked into locations 16514 to 16529.

Another feature is that the character table and decoding routine are held in the first Rem while the encoding routine is held in the second. This allows you to delete the encoding routine once all the text has been compressed, freeing another 89 bytes of precious memory.

Beyond the restriction that your initial text cannot contain characters with codes over 63, there is one further problem; because the variables in the ZX-81 are moved about in memory by the machine's operating system it is necessary to flag the beginning and end of the text string so that the routines can recognise their data. This is done by starting (continued on page 137)

(continued from page 135)

the string with \$, separating units within the text that need to be separately retrieved up to a maximum of 256 items — with \$ and terminating the data with \$. For this reason the \$ sign may not be used casually in the text, and the \$\$ sequence must not occur in other strings in the memory.

Start entering the program by typing a line 1 REM followed by a single space and then 100 zeros and a line 2 REM followed by 84 zeros. The machine-code loader in listing 1 can then be typed in and Run. Carefully enter all the decimal codes in listing 2, addresses are given for every fifth byte to help you check your input.

Then edit line 10 to read

FOR I = 16621 TO 16704

and Run the program again, this time entering the codes in listing 3. This should give you two Rems identical to those shown in listing 4. If all is well delete the loading program and enter the Basic lines from listing 4. It is wise to save the program now before running it, as any mistakes in the machine

Listing	З.					
	5005050 51 50 55 5005050 51 90 44 4 5005050 51 90 44 4	6 44490000000000000000000000000000000000	6425011101101010 64250111011101010 6425011101101101010	1555554905594955 155535549055094955 222	15 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 5	

E-

code will crash the machine.

If there are any mistakes in the routines corrections can be Poked into the Rems; any attempt to Edit them will probably corrupt the code.

The program can now be Run. When prompted enter any string you choose which obeys the rules on allowable characters. If you wish you can separate sections within the text with \$ signs. After you hit Newline the text will be encoded. You will then be asked for the item number you require.

This will normally be 1 unless you have put \$ separaters in the text. If you enter an item number which does not exist the program will crash.

The item you have requested will now be

Listing 4. 1 REM ETADINSHRDLUGCY GOSUB 1 REM ETADINSHRDLUGCY GOSUB 1 REM RETURN \$4 SAVE (SAVE 1 RNN , RETURN \$4 SAVE (RETURN \$50 0 T LET ACS 2405 ZACS ZACS ZLN \$7 2 REM LN RND(LN \$6NDCUSRND) 2 REM 1 RND(LN \$6NDCUSRND) 2 REM 1 RND(LN \$6NDCUSRND) 1 RT //STR\$ (PT?, LN \$6NDCUSRND) 1 RND printed starting at the first free print position on the screen. If the original text is not recovered or the program crashes the routine must be carefully checked using Peek. Once everything is working smoothly you can proceed to use the routines in application programs.

As the routine adds five bytes of \$ to the message, plus one byte for each separater, the greatest compression will only be achieved on relatively long sections of text. The routines typically achieve compressions of 30 to 40 percent on a wide range of input, from this and the amount of memory occupied by the decoding routine -104 bytes - it can be seen that savings in overall memory usage begin to appear when the text is over about 300 characters long. Although the compressed string actually appears longer this is due to certain codes appearing as keywords.

In general your final application program should be developed by first loading the ZX-Compander routines from tape, adding in Basic whatever editing facilities you need to aid the input of your text, entering the text and then compressing it using a line like line 30 in listing 4. Once this has been done the editing section and line 2 can be deleted. When you need to print an item all that is required is that the item number be Poked into 16507, the print position be specified using Print At and the routine called using Rand USR 16566.

The routines are not relocatable due to the numerous subroutine calls using absolute addresses.



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