

North Star BASIC

Version 6  
Version 6-FPB

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REVISION 5

## PSIZE

This command will cause the size of the current BASIC program to be printed on the terminal. The value printed will be the number of file blocks (i.e., 256-byte blocks) required to store the program.

## NSAVE <file name> <optional file size>

The NSAVE command will create a new type 2 file and store the current program on that file. The size of the new program may be specified (in file blocks) by the optional second argument. If the optional size is not supplied, then NSAVE will make the new file 3 blocks larger than required. Note that the optional size argument is separated from the file name by a blank character instead of a comma as other BASIC commands.

NSAVE TEMP,2

NSAVE NEW,2 25

## CAT <optional # device number,> <optional drive number>

The CAT command will print the directory (catalog) on the

specified disk drive (drive 1 is the default). An optional output device number may be specified as in the LIST command.

CAT

CAT 2

CAT #2,3

CAT #2

## MEMSET <memory address>

This command may be used to change the upper bound of the program and data region available to BASIC. The change will become permanent (i.e., if the version of BASIC is re-entered at any entry point, the new memory size will remain).

The following example sets the upper bound to the standard value used with a 16K RAM board addressed at 2000H (8192):

MEMSET 24575

## AUTO <optional initial value>,<optional increment>

The AUTO command will enter automatic line number mode. In this mode, a new line number will be printed at the start of every line. The first argument specifies the initial line number (default is 10) and the second argument specifies the increment (default is 10). Auto line number mode will persist until one of the following occurs: a) a null line is entered (i.e., a carriage return is typed immediately after the line number) or, b) a command is typed (by using the editor to delete the line number from the beginning of the line).

AUTO

AUTO 1000

AUTO 100,100

## APPEND <file name>

The APPEND command may be used to load the specified program at the end of the current program. Thus, concatenating two programs is possible with the APPEND command. It is an error to append a file whose first line number is less than or equal to the last line number of the current program.

APPEND TEMP,2

## INTRODUCTION

North Star BASIC was implemented by Dr. Charles A. Grant and Dr. Mark Greenberg of North Star Computers, Inc. This manual describes Version 6, an extended disk BASIC intended for use with the North Star MICRO DISK SYSTEM. Version 6 includes such features as multiple-dimensional arrays, strings, multiple-lined functions, formatted output, and machine language subroutine capability. Programs can be loaded and saved using disk files, and data files may be accessed both sequentially and randomly. Version 6-FPB has been specially assembled for use with the North Star Floating Point Board, for increased speed and reduced memory requirements. [If you order an FPB for use in conjunction with the MICRO DISK SYSTEM, be sure to request that BASIC be delivered on diskette rather than paper tape.] Version 6 has been assembled for 8-digit precision. For accuracy of 2, 4, 6, 10, 12, or 14 digits, a special order may be made. Version 6 is assembled with origin at 2A00 hex. Special orders may also be made for different origins.

This manual assumes familiarity with some version of BASIC on the part of the reader. There are many tutorial and advanced publications on BASIC available in both stores and libraries.

The North Star Version 6 BASIC software is intended for use only with the North Star MICRO DISK SYSTEM, and no license is granted for any other use. Improved copies of Version 6, as they become available, may be obtained for a nominal copying charge.

E) Multiple program execution. The CHAIN statement has been added to allow one program to cause another BASIC program to be loaded into the program area and executed. Execution of the CHAIN statement has an identical effect to stopping the current program, loading the new program, and typing RUN. Thus all variables are re-initialized, and all open files are closed. Communication between the two programs must be done either by writing variables onto a data file or into an area of RAM using EXAM and FILL.

20 CHAIN "PART2"

## INPUTTING A PROGRAM

Every program line begins with a line number. Any line of text typed to BASIC in command mode that begins with a digit is processed by the editor. There are four possible actions which may occur:

- 1) A new line is added to the program. This occurs if the line number is legal (range is 0 thru 65535) and at least one character follows the line number in the line.
- 2) An existing line is modified. This occurs if the line number matches the line number of an existing line in the program. That line is modified to have the text of the newly typed-in line.
- 3) An existing line is deleted. This occurs if the typed-in line contains only a line number which matches an existing line in the program.
- 4) An error is generated. If the line number is out of range, or the line is too long, or the memory would become full, then an error message is generated and no other action is taken by BASIC.

### Blanks

Blanks preceding a line number are ignored. Blanks are permitted anywhere in a line for indentation purposes, except within reserved words, the line number, or constants.

### Multiple statements per line

Multiple program statements may appear on a single line, if separated by a (\) back slash. A line number must appear only at the beginning of the first statement on the line.

### Typing mistakes

If a typing mistake occurs during the entering of any line of text to BASIC, there are two possible corrective actions available:

When the user types an (@) at-sign character, BASIC completely ignores all input on the current line being typed in, and types a carriage return. The correct line may then be typed to BASIC.

When the user types a left-arrow (under-line on some keyboards), BASIC will ignore the previously typed character. *ALSO BACK SPACE (PRH)*

Also, the line editor may be used to correct typing errors (see

## Appendix 2).

### Compatibility

Certain characters, when they appear in programs, are automatically translated into other characters. This is done to minimize the effort of converting programs written for other BASIC systems. In particular, left bracket ([), right bracket (]), colon (:), and semi-colon (;) are converted to left paren, right paren, back slash (\), and comma (,) respectively. This conversion is not done within quoted strings in a program.

### SAVING AND RELOADING PROGRAMS

BASIC programs may be loaded and saved using disk files existing on any mounted diskette. The LOAD and SAVE commands are described below. Familiarity with the DOS file naming conventions is required (see the accompanying Disk Operating System manual).

An error will be generated from a LOAD or SAVE command if the specified file is not a currently existing file with type 2. In addition, a SAVE command will give an error if the named file is not large enough to contain the program to be saved, or if the diskette is write-protected.

### CONTROL-C

Typing the control-C character (ETX on some keyboards) has the effect of prematurely interrupting BASIC from whatever it is doing. If a LIST is in progress, the listing will be terminated at the completion of the output of the current line. If a RUN or CONT is in progress, then execution will stop after the completion of the currently executing statement.

### DIRECT STATEMENTS

When BASIC is in command mode, certain statements may be typed for immediate execution. This is typically used for examining the values of certain variables to diagnose a programming error. Note that an exclamation point (!) may be used as a shorthand way of typing the PRINT reserved word. No direct statement is permitted which transfers control to the BASIC program. Also, DATA, DEF, FOR, NEXT, INPUT, and REM are forbidden.



# COMMANDS

SAVE AS  
DOS \* LI

CAT <OPTIONAL #DEV. NUMBER>, <OPTIONAL DRIVE NUMBER>

RUN <optional line number>

Begin program execution either at the first line of the program or else at the optionally supplied line number.

LIST <optional line number>, <optional second line number>

If no arguments are supplied, then print the entire existing program. If one line number is supplied, then print the program from the specified line number to the end. If two line numbers are supplied, then print the program in the region between the two line numbers.

DEL <LINE>, <LINE>

SCR

Delete (scratch) the existing program and data, in preparation for entering a new program.

REN <optional beginning value>, <optional increment value>

Renumber the entire existing program. If the first argument is not supplied, then 10 is used as the initial statement renumber value. If the second argument is not supplied, then 10 is used as the increment value.

AUTO <INITIAL>, <INCR>     DEFAULT     INIT=10  
CONT                             INCR=10

This command causes execution of a running BASIC program to continue after a STOP statement or after a control-C stop.

LINE <number of characters>

This command defines the line length of the user terminal. The maximum value is 132. The initial value is 72.

NULL <number of nulls>

This command specifies the number of ACSII null characters to output following the output of each carriage return character. The initial value is zero.

APPEND <FILE NAME>

LOAD <file name>

This command will load a BASIC program from the specified disk file.

PSIZE                     LIST # BLOCKS REQ. TO SAVE PROGRAM.

SAVE <file name>

This command will save the current BASIC program on the specified disk file.

NSAVE <FILE NAME> <OPTIONAL FILE SIZE>     CREATE NEW TYPE 2 FILE  
AND SAVE PROGRAM  
EDIT <line number>     DEFAULT SIZE=REQ.+3

This command specifies a line to be edited by the line editor. See Appendix 2 for details.

BYE

This command will exit BASIC and cause control to be transferred to the DOS. The text of the existing BASIC program is not modified, and it is possible to continue BASIC from the DOS later, if desired (see below).

MEMSET <MEMORY ADRS, ID>

CHAIN "FILE"

CHANGE UPPER BOUNDARY  
(STOP, LOAD "FILE", RUN)

## CONSTANTS

Magnitude range: .1E-63 thru .99999999E+63

Constants appearing in programs are rounded to 8 digits if necessary. Internal representation of numbers is binary-coded-decimal.

## NAMES

All user defined names are one or two characters long: a letter of the alphabet optionally followed by any digit. For example: A, Z0, and Q9 are legal names. The same name may be used to identify different values, as long as the values they identify are of different types. For example, it is possible to have a scalar variable named A1, an array named A1, a string named A1\$ and functions named FNAL and FNAL\$. There is no relationship between these entities.

## OPERATORS

Numeric: +, -, /, \*, ↑ (or ^ on some keyboards)

Relational: =, <, >, <>, >=, <=

A relational operation gives a 1 (true) or 0 (false) result.

Boolean: AND, OR, NOT

A Boolean operand is true if non-zero, and false if zero.

The result of a boolean operation is 1 (true) or 0 (false).

## PRECEDENCE OF OPERATORS

All operators can be used in any numeric expression. Higher precedence operators are evaluated first, and operators of equal precedence are evaluated left to right. The operators are listed below in order of increasing precedence.

OR  
AND  
=, <, >, =, <>, <=, >=  
+, -  
\*, /  
↑  
NOT, unary minus (-)

The LIST command now has four forms:

LIST	list entire program
LIST 100	list specified line
LIST 100,	list specified line thru end of program
LIST 100,200	list lines indicated by range

## STATEMENTS

File accessing statements are described in a later section. Consult the example programs in the Appendix for questions about the use of a particular type of statement.

### LET

The LET is optional in assignment statements. Multiple assignments are not allowed. The statement `A=B=0` assigns true or false to A depending on whether or not B equals 0.

### IF

An IF statement may optionally have an ELSE clause. A THEN or ELSE clause may be a LET statement, a RETURN statement, another IF statement or a GOTO, for example. Additional statements appearing on a line following an IF will be executed regardless of success or failure (unless a GOTO is executed). If either the THEN clause or the ELSE clause is a simple GOTO, then the GOTO reserved word may be optionally omitted.

```
100 IF A=B THEN 150 ELSE A=A-1
```

### FOR

FOR loops may be multiply nested. The optional STEP value may be positive or negative. It is possible to specify values such that the FOR loop will execute zero times. For example,

```
100 FOR J=5 TO 4 \ PRINT J \ NEXT
```

### NEXT

A NEXT statement may optionally specify the control variable for the matching FOR statement, as a check for proper nesting.

### GOTO

The GOTO statement will transfer program control to the statement with the specified line number.

### ON

The ON statement provides a multi-branched GOTO capability. For example,

```
100 ON J GOTO 500,600,700
```

will branch to 500, 600 or 700 depending on the value of J



being 1, 2, or 3 respectively. Other values of J will cause an error.

#### EXIT

The EXIT statement is identical to a GOTO except that it has the effect of terminating one active FOR loop and reclaiming the associated internal stack memory. It should be used for branching out of a FOR loop.

#### STOP

The STOP statement will stop program execution and print a message.

#### END

The END statement will stop program execution without printing a message.

#### REM

The REM statement may be used for inserting comments into a BASIC program.

#### READ

The READ statement is used to sequentially access numeric or string values contained in DATA statements.

#### DATA

The DATA statement is used to specify lists of string and numeric values which can be accessed by the READ statement.

#### RESTORE

The RESTORE statement may optionally include a line number, specifying where the READ pointer is to be restored to. In the absence of the optional line number, the READ pointer is set to the first line of the program.

#### INPUT

#### INPUT1

The INPUT or INPUT1 statement may optionally specify a literal string which is typed on the terminal as a prompt for the input instead of a question mark. To inhibit the echoing of the carriage return at the end of user input, use the INPUT1 statement.

```
100 INPUT "TYPE VALUES: ",V1,V2
```

## GOSUB

The GOSUB statement may be used to call a BASIC subroutine. Control is passed to the specified line number. When a RETURN is executed by the subroutine, then control returns to the statement following the GOSUB statement.

## RETURN

The RETURN statement is used to return from a BASIC subroutine.

## PRINT

The PRINT statement may include a list of expressions, variables, or constants separated by (,) commas. If the list of variables is terminated by a comma, then a final carriage return is not printed. The null PRINT statement will cause only a carriage return to be printed. A semi-colon is equivalent to a comma in the print list. All numeric values are printed in free format, separated by a blank, unless formatting is specified. If a value will not fit on the current output line, then it is printed on the next output line. Advancement of the printer to a specified output position may be accomplished with the TAB function. Formatting may be accomplished by including a "format string" in a PRINT statement (see below). An exclamation point (!) may be used as a shorthand way of typing the PRINT reserved word.

## FILL

This statement permits filling a specified byte in the computer memory with a given expression value. For example, FILL 100,J+3 will fill memory byte 100 with the binary encoded value of J+3, truncated to 8 bits.

## OUT

This statement permits doing an 8080 or Z80 OUT instruction. For example, OUT 5,3 will perform an OUT 5 instruction with 3 in the computer accumulator.

TO "BEEP" KEYBOARD      OUT 2,0  
TO ENABLE (ROM MTR, TIMERS, CPU-B RAM)      OUT 243, 64

## ARRAYS

Arrays may be dimensioned with any number of dimensions, limited only by available memory, e.g.,

```
100 DIM A(1), B7(5,2,3,4,5,6)
```

Array indexing starts at element 0. Array A in the above example actually has two elements, A(0) and A(1). Use of an undimensioned array causes automatic dimensioning to a one-dimension, 10 element array. Arrays may not be re-dimensioned within a program.

## STRINGS

Strings of 8-bit characters may be dimensioned to any size, limited only by available memory, e.g.,

```
100 DIM A$(1),A1$(10000)
```

Note that a string name is a variable name followed by a (\$) dollar sign. The value of a string variable after the DIM statement is a full string of blanks. Substrings of a string variable may be accessed as A\$(N,M) which is the substring of characters N thru M. For example, if A\$ is "ABCDEF" then A\$(3,5) is "CDE". Alternatively, A\$(N) identifies the substring including characters N thru the last character in the string. A substring reference must specify positions within the current length of a string. The program:

```
100 A$=""  
110 A$(2,3)="AB"
```

will give an error in line 110 because A\$ has length of less than 3 at the time of the assignment.

If an assigned value is longer than the destination string or substring, then it is truncated to fit. If an assigned value to a substring is shorter than the substring, then the extra characters of the substring are left unmodified. A string variable used before being DIMensioned is given the default dimension of 10. Strings may not be redimensioned within a program. Indexing string variables begins at 1, not 0.

Strings and substrings may be concatenated with the use of the plus (+) operator. (When large strings are concatenated, sufficient free storage must exist to contain the entire concatenated string.)

Strings, substrings and string expressions may be used in conjunction with: LET, READ, DATA, PRINT, IF, and INPUT statements. The string IF statement does alphabetic comparisons

when the relational operators are used, .e.g.

```
100 IF A$+B$<"SMITH" THEN 50
```

When string variables are INPUT, they must not be quoted. When strings appear in DATA statements, they must be quoted. The boolean operators (AND, OR, and NOT) may not be used in string expressions.

For those familiar with another popular method of accessing strings and substrings in BASIC, the following will be of interest:

```
LEFT$(A$,7)    is equivalent to  A$(1,7)
RIGHT$(A$,5)   is equivalent to  A$(5)
MID$(A$,5,7)   is equivalent to  A$(5,7)
```

Also, the North Star string methods may be used to construct a "table of strings". For example, A\$(J\*10,J\*10+9) is the Jth 10-character substring within A\$.

A) Multiple input/output devices. Now PRINT, INPUT, LIST, and LINE may specify a "device expression" as an optional first argument preceded by a number sign, e.g.:

```
PRINT #3,A,B,C
INPUT #X,"TYPE A NUMBER: ",N
LIST #2,100,500
LINE #2,64
```

Device 0 is assumed if the device expression is missing. Also, device 0 is always used for command communication in direct mode and in the DOS. LINE becomes an executable statement instead of a command, so that device line lengths can be set up within programs as well as in direct mode.

The device value, which must be between 0 and 7 inclusive, is communicated in the ACC to the DOS CIN and COUT routines. The DOS routines can then decide which device to communicate with based on the contents of the ACC. Note that no changes are needed for the DOS I/O routines if this feature will not be used. Also note that this feature may be used to communicate string values to machine language subroutines.

## USER DEFINED FUNCTIONS

User-defined functions (either of type string or numeric) may be 1-line or multiple line functions. There may be any number of numeric arguments. Parameters are "local" to a particular call of a function. That is, the value of the variable is not affected outside of the execution of the function.

Functions are defined before execution begins (at RUN time), so definitions need not be executed, and functions may be defined only once.

Multiple line functions must end with a FNEND statement. A multiple-line function returns a value by executing a RETURN statement with the value to be returned, for example:

```
100 DEF FNA(X,Y,Z)
200 IF Z=1 THEN RETURN X
300 X=Y*Z+X*3
400 RETURN X
500 FNEND
600 PRINT FNA(1,2,X+Y)
```

The following new function has been added:

FILE(<file name string>)

This function will return a -1 as value if the specified disk file does not exist. Otherwise, if the file exists, then the function will return the type of the file.

T=FILE("TEMP,2")

T=FILE(F\$)

## Randomizing the BASIC Random Number Generator

If the RND function is called with a negative argument, then the random number seed will be set to a "random" starting value. [This is accomplished by measuring the time to the next disk sector pulse.] After once using T=RND(-1) to set the seed, subsequent random numbers should be obtained by using RND(0). Note that better results will be obtained if user input is requested between any disk accesses and the call on RND(-1).

## RADIAN/DEGREE CONVERSION

$RAD = DEG * (\pi/180)$  OR  $RAD = DEG * (1.7453293 E^{-02})$   
 $DEG = RAD * (180/\pi)$  OR  $DEG = RAD * (57.295780)$

$\pi = 3.1415927$  (EIGHT PLACES)

### BUILT IN FUNCTIONS

FREE(0) returns number of bytes remaining in free storage.  
ABS(expr) returns the absolute value of the expression  
SGN(expr) returns 1, 0, or -1 if the value is +, 0, or -  
INT(expr) returns the integer portion of the expression value  
LEN(string name) returns the length of the specified string  
CHR\$(expr) returns a string with the specified character  
ASC(string name) returns ASCII code of first character in string  
VAL(string expr) returns the numeric value of the string  
STR\$(expr) returns a string with the specified numeric value  
SIN(expr) returns SINE of the expression  
COS(expr) returns the COSINE of the expression  
ATAN → RND(expr) returns a random number between 0 and 1 (see below)  
LOG(expr) returns the natural log of the expression  
EXP(expr) returns the value of e raised to the specified power  
SQRT(expr) returns the positive square root of the expression  
CALL(expr,expr) machine language subroutine call (see below)  
EXAM(expr) return contents of addressed memory byte  
INP(expr) return result of 8080 IN to specified port  
TYP(expr) return file item type (see below)  
TAB(expr) Advance tab in PRINT statement  
FILE (SEE BACK 1 PAGE)

### MACHINE LANGUAGE SUBROUTINE INTERFACING

The built-in function CALL takes a first argument which is the address of a machine language subroutine to call. The optional second argument is a value which is converted to an integer and passed to the machine language subroutine in DE. The CALL function returns as value the integer which is in HL when the machine language subroutine returns. For example:

```
10 A=CALL(500)
20 B=CALL(X,Y+3)/Z
```

### RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR (SEE BACK 1 PAGE)

The RND function may be used to generate a sequence of pseudo-random numbers between 0 and 1 by the Rawson method. If the argument to the RND function is 0, then the next pseudo-random number in the sequence is returned as value. Otherwise, if the argument expression is a value between 0 and 1, the sequence will be restarted with the supplied value as the "seed". For example, the program:

```
10 J=RND(.5)
20 FOR J=1 TO 10
30 PRINT RND(0)
40 NEXT
```

"RANDOMIZE" RTN  
 $Q9 = RND((EXAM(53506))/256)$   
USES TIMER @ D102H (53506<sub>10</sub>)  
ASSUMES CPU NOT SWITCHED OUT.

will set the seed to .5 and then print 10 pseudo-random values.

## FORMATTED OUTPUT

If no format string is present in a PRINT statement, then all numeric values will be printed in the "default format". (The default format is initially set to be free format.) A format string may appear anywhere in the print list and must begin with a per cent (%) character, e.g.

```
PRINT %$10F2,J
```

A format string consists of a per cent character (%) followed by any number of format characters followed by a format specification. The format characters are:

- C place commas to the left of decimal point as needed
- \$ put a dollar sign to the left of value
- Z suppress trailing zeroes
- # make this format string the default format

Format specifications (similar to FORTRAN) are:

nFm F-format. The value will be printed in a n-character field, right justified, with m digits to the right of decimal point.

nI I-format. The value will be printed in a n-character field, right justified, if it is an integer. (Otherwise an error message will occur.)

nEm E-format. The value will be printed in scientific notation in a n-character field, right justified, with m digits to the right of the decimal point.

All printed values are rounded if necessary. A null format string specifies free format.

A new function INCHAR\$(<device number expression>) has been added. This function will await the typing of a single character from the specified device, and return that character as a single-character string. Control characters as well as printing characters are allowed. The character will not automatically be "echoed" to the device.

```
10 TS=INCHAR$(0)\ PRINT TS,
```

B) Delete command. The DEL command has been added to allow the deletion of a block of program statements. For example,

```
DEL 100,200
```

will delete all program statements with line numbers in the range of 100 through 200 inclusive.



## ACCESSING DATA FILES

All data files accessed by BASIC must have been created prior to use. Files to be accessed as BASIC data files must be of type 3. Also, if a file is greater than 256 blocks (64K bytes) then the area of the file past 64K is not accessible.

Both numeric and string data may be written on a file. BASIC buffers the file data in RAM in order to cause the minimum amount of disk activity, but the size of the buffer has no effect on the way that data may be written in the file.

OPEN #<file number>,<file name>

Before a file can be accessed, it must be "opened". The OPEN statement assigns a "file number" to the specified file. When actual accessing of the file is begun, the file number is used to identify the file. There are 4 legal file numbers: 0, 1, 2 and 3. The file name may be any string expression which evaluates to a legal file name (and optional disk unit specification) as described in the DOS manual. The OPEN statement also sets the "file pointer" to the beginning of the file (see below). For example:

```
OPEN #0,"ABC"  
OPEN #3,A$  
OPEN #J+1,A$+",2"
```

CLOSE #<file number>

The CLOSE statement serves two purposes. First, it prevents any further access to the file through the assigned file number. Secondly, the CLOSE statement forces the contents of the file buffer to be written to the file if necessary. It is very important to CLOSE a file as soon as possible after completion of writing to a file.

The READ and WRITE statements may be used to access a file in either a sequential or random access manner. Sequential access will be discussed first.

WRITE #<file number>,<list of items>

The WRITE statement will write a list of numeric and/or string values to the specified file. Writing will begin at the current value of the "file pointer". (Note that the file pointer is always set to the beginning of a file after an OPEN.) After the last item in the list has been written, a special "end-mark" character will be written in the file, and the file pointer will be set to address the end-mark.

Thus, a subsequent WRITE statement will cause the new list of items to overwrite the end-mark and be written following the previously written data, with the file pointer once again updated accordingly. For example:

```
WRITE #0,A
WRITE #3,A$
WRITE #J,"ABC",SIN(X),A$+B$
```

READ #<file number>,<list of variables>

The READ statement will read data items from the file into the specified variables. The items are read from the file starting at the current value of the file pointer. At the end of the READ statement, the file pointer is set to point immediately after the last item read. An error will be generated if an end-mark is encountered before the list of variables is exhausted, or if the type of data in the file does not match the type of variable into which it is being read. For example,

```
READ #0,A
READ #J,A,A$,B$,B
```

The TYP function will return a value which indicates the type of the item in the file addressed by the file pointer. The argument expression must evaluate to the file number of a currently open file. The TYP function will return:

- 0 if an end-mark is next
- 1 if a string is next
- 2 if a numeric value is next.

For example,

```
10 IF TYP(2)=0 THEN STOP
```

The following table specifies exactly how many bytes are required to internally represent a floating point value as a function of the precision of your version of BASIC.

PRECISION	BYTES
2	2
4	3
6	4
→ 8	→ 5
10	6
12	7
14	8

Thus, if the precision of your version of BASIC is 8, each numeric value will occupy exactly 5 bytes of file space. Character strings of any length may be written to a file. Strings with length less than or equal to 255 bytes (including 0) require a

number of bytes equal to 2 plus the actual length of the string written. Strings with length greater than 255 characters require 3 plus the actual length. Note that when computing the total amount of data that will fit into a file, one byte must be reserved for the end-mark.

READ #<file number> %<file pointer>,<list of variables>

WRITE #<file number> %<file pointer>,<list of items>

Random READ and WRITE statements differ from sequential READ and WRITE statements in that they specify the file pointer value before performing the read or write. The file pointer is a byte address within the file. Thus BASIC programs may organize files into logical records of any size, or even into variable sized records. For example, the following statement will read three values from the Xth 37-byte record in file number 1.

```
10 READ #1 %37*X,A,B,C$
```

Normally, as described above, at the end of any WRITE statement an end-mark is written following the last item written. For some applications such as modifying an item within a record, or to save bytes within a record, it may be desirable to prevent writing the end-mark at the end of the WRITE statement. When the reserved word NOENDMARK is the last item in the WRITE statement item list, then no end-mark will be written.

```
20 WRITE #J %X ,SIN(J),NOENDMARK
```

Random file accessing is an advanced technique which provides a great deal of flexibility but also allows the possibility of errors. Erroneous calculation of file pointer addresses can result in unpredictable and catastrophic errors.

CREATE <file name string>,<length>,<optional type>

This statement will attempt to create a new file with the specified name and length (given in 256-byte blocks). The type of the file may be optionally specified as the third argument, otherwise type 3 will be used.

```
CREATE "TEMP",5
```

```
CREATE "DATA,2",300,9
```

```
CREATE B$,N,T
```

DESTROY <file name string>

This statement will attempt to destroy the specified file. The file may be of any type. As with most file statements, the DESTROY statement may be executed as a direct statement.

```
DESTROY "TEMP,2"
```

OPEN #<file number>%<file type>,<file name>,<optional variable>

The OPEN statement has been extended so that if a % follows the file number expression in an OPEN statement, then the following expression specifies the type that the specified file must be. If the % is omitted, then the file must be of type 3.

```
OPEN #N %9, "DATA,2"
```

## LOADING AND USING BASIC

The process of creating a version of BASIC which accommodates your own terminal I/O conventions and memory size is described in the DOS manual.

In the event that you leave BASIC for some reason (e.g. to execute a DOS command, or because of a system interruption) BASIC may be re-entered at one of the following entry points. It is assumed here that you have a standard assembly of BASIC with origin at 2A00 hex.

2A00 This is the initialization entry point for BASIC. Entry at this address will result in a null BASIC program.

2A04 This is a continue entry point. Any program that existed at the time of interruption will still exist, but the value of all temporary variables will be destroyed. For example,

```
SAVE TEST1
FILE ERROR
BYE
*CR TEST1 10
*TY TEST1 2
*JP 2A04
READY
SAVE TEST1
READY
```

2A14 SAME AS 2A04 EXCEPT SAVES VALUES OF VARIABLES.

C) Byte access to data files. It is now possible to access a data file in BASIC at the byte level. A numeric value in the range of 0 to 255 may be written into or read from a specified byte address in a data file. These byte accesses may be performed in either sequential or random mode. To indicate byte mode, an ampersand (&) is placed before the variable to be read into or the expression to be written out. For example,

```
10 READ #0,A,&B
20 WRITE #1,&X+1,B$
30 READ #0&X,&T,&T1
40 WRITE #F&X,&ASC("a")
```

D) Determining file length. The length of a data file may be determined by adding an optional variable name at the end of the OPEN statement. After the OPEN statement, the variable will contain the number of 256-byte blocks in the file. For example, if the file DATA is 30 blocks long, then

20 OPEN #0,"DATA",L will place 30 in L after successful opening.

## Appendix: SAMPLE PROGRAMS

```
100 REM  A NUMERIC SORT PROGRAM
110 REM
120 DIM A(15)
130 PRINT "INPUT FIFTEEN VALUES, ONE VALUE PER LINE"
140 FOR J=1 TO 15
150 INPUT A(J)
160 NEXT
170 REM  DO EXCHANGE SORT UNTIL ALL IN ORDER
175 F=0 \ REM THIS FLAG USED TO SIGNAL WHETHER ARRAY IN ORDER YET
180 FOR J=2 TO 15
190 IF A(J-1)<=A(J) THEN 220
200 T=A(J)\ A(J)=A(J-1)\ A(J-1)=T\ REM EXCHANGE A(J) AND A(J-1)
210 F=1\ REM SET FLAG
220 NEXT
230 IF F=1 THEN 175\ REM  LOOP IF EXCHANGES HAPPENED
240 PRINT "SORTED ARRAY: ",
250 FOR J=1 TO 15\ PRINT A(J),\ NEXT
```

```
100 REM  CHARACTER SORT
110 REM  EXAMPLE USING STRINGS AND FUNCTION
115 DIM A$(72)
120 INPUT "TYPE A STRING OF CHARACTERS: ",A$
130 IF LEN(A$)=0 THEN 120
140 IF FNA(LEN(A$))=1 THEN 140\ REM CALL FNA UNTIL IT RETURNS ZERO VALUE
150 PRINT "SORTED ARRAY: ",A$
155 END
160 DEF FNA(N)\ REM CHARACTER SORT
170 REM  RETURN 0 IF A$ SORTED, ELSE RETURN 1
175 F=0
180 FOR J=2 TO N
190 IF A$(J-1,J-1)<=A$(J,J) THEN 220
200 T$=A$(J,J)\ A$(J,J)=A$(J-1,J-1)\ A$(J-1,J-1)=T$
210 F=1
220 NEXT
230 RETURN F
240 FNEND
```

```

100 REM INPUT A STRING AND CHECK THAT IT IS A LEGAL INTEGER
105 REM
110 DIM A$(72)
115 INPUT "TYPE AN INTEGER: ",A$
120 IF LEN(A$)=0 OR LEN(A$)>8 THEN GOTO 500
130 FOR J=1 TO LEN(A$)
140 IF A$(J,J)<"0" THEN 500
145 IF A$(J,J)>"9" THEN 500
150 NEXT J
155 PRINT "THE INTEGER IS OK: ",VAL(A$)
160 GOTO 115
500 REM
510 PRINT "NOT AN INTEGER!"
520 GOTO 115

```

```

100 REM
110 REM PRINT A SINE WAVE VERTICALLY ON THE PAGE
115 FOR J=1 TO 100 STEP .1
120 T=SIN(J)
130 S=INT(30*T)
140 PRINT TAB(30+S),"*"
150 NEXT
160 STOP

```

```

100 REM
110 REM PRINT A TABLE OF FORMATTED VALUES
120 REM
130 FOR J=1 TO 100
140 PRINT %3I,J,
150 PRINT %6F3,SIN(J),%7F4,COS(J),
160 PRINT %10E3,EXP(J),
170 PRINT %12F10,RND(0)
180 NEXT

```

```

100 REM PRINT THE CONTENTS OF AN UNKNOWN SEQUENTIAL FILE
120 DIM A$(1000)
140 INPUT "FILE NAME: ",B$
160 OPEN #0,B$
180 IF TYP(0)=0 THEN END
200 IF TYP(0)=1 THEN 300
220 READ #0,N
240 PRINT N
260 GOTO 180
300 READ #0,A$
320 PRINT A$
340 GOTO 180

```

```

100 REM    CONSTRUCT A FILE CONTAINING NUMERIC SQUARES,
110 REM    AND THEN USE RANDOM ACCESS TO COMPUTE SQUARES
120 REM    OF TYPED INPUT VALUES
130 OPEN #0,"TESTFILE"
140 FOR J=0 TO 500
150 WRITE #0,J↑2
160 NEXT
170 INPUT "X=",X
180 IF X<0 OR X>500 THEN END
190 READ #0%5*X,X2\ REM EACH FP VALUE USES 5 BYTES
200 PRINT "X SQUARED: ",X2
220 GOTO 170

```



## Appendix 2: The Line Editor

This section describes an advanced method of editing BASIC program lines. For the purpose of this discussion, the term "old line" will refer to a line of the BASIC program which is to be edited. The EDIT command may be used to designate which program line is to become the old line, e.g.,

```
EDIT 100
```

Otherwise, the most recently typed-in program line is automatically designated the old line.

When typing in a "new line" to BASIC, the old line may be used as a "template" for creating the new line. Special editing characters may be typed to cause parts of the old line to be used in constructing the new line. Use of the line editor will result in dramatically more convenient program modification.

When a new line is entered with the assistance of the line editor, it is as if the new line was entered in the "normal" manner. Thus a new line can have either the same or a different line number as the old line. For example, if the new-line line number is the same as the old line, then the new line will replace the old line in the program.

A line edit is terminated as soon as a carriage return is typed. If an illegal editing command is attempted, the line editor will ring a bell and perform no action.

During the entering of a new line, there are two "invisible pointers" maintained, one which locates a character position in the old line, and one which locates a character position in the new line. When beginning to enter a new line to BASIC, both pointers locate the first character position. Typing a normal (non-editing) character will advance both pointers by one position. The editing character control-G will cause the characters in the old line to the right of the old line pointer to be printed as part of the new line. Thus, for example, if the line

```
100 PRINT "*****"
```

was entered as part of a program, and the missing end quote mark was discovered, the error could be corrected by typing EDIT 100, then control-G, then a quote mark, and then a carriage return. If it was desired to make line 234 do the same PRINT statement, then the following could be typed to accomplish this: 234 followed by control-G followed by a carriage return. It is suggested that you try these and similar examples before reading on. Now follows descriptions of each of the editing control characters.

- Control-G Copy rest of old line to end of new line.  
This command will print the characters from the current pointer position in the old line as part of the new line.
- Control-A Copy one character from old line.  
This command will print one character from the current pointer position of the old line as part of the new line. Both pointers will be advanced one character position.
- Control-Q Back up one character.  
This command will erase the last character of the new line, and also back up the old line and new line pointers. A left-arrow (under-line on some terminals) will be typed to indicate that this command was typed.
- Control-Z Erase one character from old line.  
This command advances the old line pointer by one character position. This command would be used to remove undesired characters from the old line. A percent character (%) is printed to indicate that this command was typed.
- Control-D Copy up to specified character.  
This command requires a second character to be typed before it is executed. The command will copy the contents of the old line up to, but not including the first occurrence of the specified character to the new line.
- Control-Y Toggle insert mode.  
When entering a new line, insert mode is "off". When insert mode is off, then typing normal characters will advance the old line pointer. When insert mode is "on", then typing normal characters will not advance the old line pointer. Thus, insert mode may be used to add some omitted characters from the old line. A left angle bracket will be typed to indicate entering insert mode, and a right angle bracket (>) will be typed to indicate leaving insert mode.
- Control-N Re-edit new line.  
This command erases the current new line and permits re-entering the new line. The partially complete new line becomes the old line for subsequent editing. (Of course, the EDIT command could be typed to select a different old line.) An at-sign (@) is typed to indicate that this command was typed.

## Error Trapping in BASIC

A new statement has been added for allowing a BASIC program to retain control even when errors occur. To enable the error trapping mode, the statement:

`ERRSET <line number>,<variable>,<variable>`

should be used. The line number specifies where control should be passed when an error occurs. The two variables will be set to the line number of the offending statement, and the type code for the error, respectively. The trappable errors and their type codes are:

- |    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 1  | ARGUMENT ERROR         |
| 2  | DIMENSION ERROR        |
| 3  | OUT OF BOUNDS ERROR    |
| 4  | TYPE ERROR             |
| 5  | FORMAT ERROR           |
| 6  | LINE NUMBER ERROR      |
| 7  | FILE ERROR             |
| 8  | HARD DISK ERROR        |
| 9  | DIVIDE ZERO ERROR      |
| 10 | SYNTAX ERROR           |
| 11 | READ ERROR             |
| 12 | INPUT ERROR            |
| 13 | ARG MISMATCH ERROR     |
| 14 | NUMERIC OVERFLOW ERROR |
| 15 | STOP (on control-C)    |

Note that control-C is trappable (but may be disabled as described above if desired).

When an error occurs, error trapping is turned off, control is passed to the specified line, and the variables are set. All GOSUB, user function, and FOR NEXT histories are left intact, so that it is possible to continue after the error. Error trapping mode may be disabled by executing an ERRSET statement with no arguments.

## BASIC Personalization Bytes

### ENTRY POINT #3 (2A14H,10772D)

This is a new entry point to BASIC which is similar to the 2A04 entry point, but which also will preserve the values of all variables.

### AUTOS (2A0FH,10767D)

This byte allows for creating a copy of BASIC which will immediately begin execution of a BASIC program after the GO command. Proceed as follows: 1)GO BASIC and load the desired program. 2)Execute the PSIZE command. 3)Leave BASIC with BYE, and change the AUTOS byte from 1 to 0. 4)Create a file (e.g.,

GAME) with size equal to the size of BASIC plus the PSIZE value (e.g., 57). 5)Set the type to 1 and go-address to 2A00. 6)Do an SF GAME 2A00. Subsequent execution of GO GAME will be equivalent to GO BASIC; LOAD prog; RUN.

### CONC (2A18H,10776D)

Changing this byte from 0 to 1 inhibits the use of control-C for program interruption. When control-C is inhibited, the CONTC routine in DOS will not be called during program execution. Note that control-C can be enabled and disabled under program control by use of the FILL statement.

### PAGES (2A13H,10771D)

If PAGES is non-zero, then all LIST commands to device 0 will be done in "paging mode". In paging mode, after PAGES-1 lines have been printed, the user will be asked to type a carriage return to continue the listing.

### BSPC (2A17H,10775D)

This byte specifies the character to be printed when the character-delete editing command (underline or control-Q or backspace) is typed. Users with CRT terminals may wish to change the BSPC character from underline to backspace (08H).

### LINECT (2A0EH,10766D)

This byte contains the initial line length used by BASIC. The default value is 80. The maximum value allowed is 132.

### LINETB (2A11H,10769D)

These two bytes contain a pointer to the "print head table" in BASIC which contains a one-byte current cursor or print head position for each of the 8 I/O devices (starting with device 0). For some applications such as plotting, some users may wish to EXAM or FILL these bytes to avoid getting the LENGTH ERROR message.

Immediately following the print head table is the file table, which contains one 10-byte entry for each of the 8 possible open files. Byte 0: status byte, bytes 1-2: buffer address, bytes 3-4: disk address of file, bytes 5-6: number of blocks in file, bytes 7-9: current file pointer.

### PROM (2A10H,10768D)

This byte must be changed from 0E8H if a non-standard origin disk controller PROM is used. If this byte is not changed, then the new randomizing feature will not work.

## DETERMINATION OF VARIABLE ADDRESSES ★ BASIC (REL-4)

VARIABLE NAMES MAY BE OF 3 TYPES :

NUMERIC	eg	A, A1, A9, A $\phi$
STRING	eg	A\$, A1\$, A9\$, A $\phi$ \$
FUNCTION	eg	FNA, FNA1, FNA\$, FNA1\$

THE 3 TYPES ARE TYPE INDEPENDENT AND IT IS LEGAL TO HAVE NUMERICS NAMED A, STRINGS NAMED A\$, AND FUNCTIONS NAMED A AND/OR A\$ WHICH ARE ALL TREATED UNIQUELY.

ALL VARIABLES MUST BEGIN WITH AN ALPHA CHR (A  $\rightarrow$  Z), AND MAY OPTIONALLY HAVE A SECOND NUMERIC CHR ( $\phi$ -9). STRING VARIABLES ARE SUFFIXED WITH (\$). FUNCTION NAMES CAN BE ANY COMBINATION OF ABOVE.

### LOCATION OF VARIABLES

ALL VARIABLES IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW A 52 BYTE VARIABLE TABLE, WHICH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS THE LAST STATEMENT. THUS, VARIABLES ARE NOT WRITTEN TO DISK WHEN A PROGRAM IS RECORDED VIA "SAVE" OR "NSAVE" COMMANDS. VARIABLES, STRINGS, OR FUNCTION NAMES ARE ENTERED INTO MEMORY IN A THREADED LIST IN THE ORDER OF DEFINITION.

STRUCTURE OF VARIABLE THREADED LIST

AT LOCATION  $57AC_{HEX}$  IS A TWO-BYTE (BYTE REVERSED) POINTER TO THE LAST LOCATION OF PROGRAM MEMORY. THE VALUE  $((\text{CONTENTS OF } 57AC) + 1)$  IS THE START OF A  $(26 \times 2)$  BYTE TABLE WHICH CONTAINS 26 2-BYTE (BYTE REVERSED) POINTERS TO EACH OF 26 VARIABLE THREADED LISTS FOR VARIABLES A, B, C, D, ... X, Y, Z IN ALPHABETIC ORDER

for example :

@  $57AC = 72$   
     $57AD = 5C$  }  $5C72_{HEX} (+1) =$  POINTER TO VARIABLE TABLE

VARIABLE TABLE ENTRIES { @  $5C73 = A7$   
                                     $5C74 = 5C$  }  $5CA7_{HEX}$  POINTER TO VARIABLE LIST STARTING WITH A

                                    ↓

@  $5CA5 = l_0$   
     $5CA6 = h_i$  }  $h_i l_0_{HEX}$  POINTER TO VARIABLE LIST STARTING WITH Z

@  $5CA7 =$  START OF VARIABLE LIST FOR VARIABLE A.

## STRUCTURE OF THREADED VARIABLE LIST

THE START OF A LIST FOR A GIVEN VARIABLE (NUMERIC OR STRING) OR FUNCTION NAME IS FOUND IN THE VARIABLE NAME TABLE, WHICH POINTS TO THE FIRST ENTRY IN THE LIST. IF NO VARIABLE OR FUNCTION NAME IS CURRENTLY DEFINED BEGINNING WITH A GIVEN ALPHA CHR, THEN THE POINTER WILL BE ZERO ( $\phi\phi\phi\phi$ ).

EACH VARIABLE OR FUNCTION NAME IN TURN POINTS TO THE NEXT NAME IN THE LIST. THE GENERAL FORMAT OF THE LIST IS AS FOLLOWS:

→ | ab | pp:pp | additional variable dependant information or variable contents

where ab is the variable code byte and pp:pp is the pointer to the next entry in the list (byte reversed) or zero ( $\phi\phi\phi\phi$ ) to terminate the list.



## VARIABLE CODE BYTE

THE FIRST BYTE IN EACH LIST ENTRY (THE ADDRESS POINTED TO BY THE POINTER BYTES OF THE PREVIOUS LIST ENTRY OR VARIABLE TABLE POINTER) CONTAINS A CODE AS TO THE NATURE OF THE VARIABLE NAME. IT IS FOLLOWED BY 2 POINTER BYTES WHICH POINT TO THE NEXT ENTRY IN THE LIST OR (00 00) IF END OF LIST.

## CODE BYTE VALUES (ab)

$\left. \begin{array}{l} 00 \\ 01 \\ 02 \\ \downarrow \\ 08 \\ 09 \end{array} \right\}$  INDICATES TWO CHARACTER NUMERIC VARIABLE SUCH AS  
00 (A0, B0, etc)  
09 (A9, B9, etc)

0F INDICATES SINGLE CHR NUMERIC VARIABLE SUCH AS A, B, Z, etc.

$\left. \begin{array}{l} 20 \\ \downarrow \\ 29 \end{array} \right\}$  INDICATES DIMENSIONED TWO CHARACTER NUMERIC VARIABLE SUCH AS DIM A0(20), B9(5,10)

2F INDICATES DIMENSIONED SINGLE CHR NUMERIC VARIABLE SUCH AS A(30), B(10), etc.

## CODE BYTE VALUES (ab) (continued)

4Φ } INDICATES TWO CHARACTER FUNCTION  
{ NAME SUCH AS FNAΦ, FNA9, etc.  
49 }

4F INDICATES SINGLE CHARACTER FUNCTION  
NAME SUCH AS FNA, FNB, etc.

8Φ } INDICATES TWO CHARACTER STRING  
{ VARIABLE SUCH AS AΦ\$, A9\$, etc.  
89 }

8F INDICATES SINGLE CHARACTER STRING  
VARIABLE SUCH AS A\$, B\$, etc.

CΦ } INDICATES TWO CHARACTER STRING  
{ FUNCTION NAME SUCH AS FNAΦ\$, FNA9\$, etc.  
C9 }

CF INDICATES SINGLE CHARACTER STRING  
FUNCTION NAME SUCH AS FNA\$, FNB\$, etc.

## TYPE DEPENDANT INFORMATION

NUMERIC VARIABLES - NONE. THE VARIABLE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWS THE TWO POINTER BYTES

→  $ab | pp | pp | \overset{lo}{vv} | \overset{lo}{vv} | \overset{hi}{vv} | \overset{hi}{vv} | ee$   
where

$vv | vv | vv | vv$  is 8 digit BCD value  
 $ee$  is exponent byte biased by  $40_{HEX}$   
(see ashley source documentation)

STRING VARIABLES - 4 BYTES GIVING

SIZE OF STRING AND CURRENT LENGTH

$ab | pp | pp | ll | ll | nn | nn | string \rightarrow$

where  $ll ll$  = byte reversed length of string in bytes. (length as defined)  
 $nn nn$  = byte reversed current length of string ( $\leq ll ll$ .)

FUNCTION NAMES - 2 BYTES WHICH

POINT TO LOCATION OF FUNCTION CODE IN PROGRAM MEMORY.

$ab | pp | pp | qq | qq$

where  $qq qq$  = byte reversed address of function code in program memory.

# TYPE DEPENDANT INFORMATION

## DIMENSIONED NUMERIC VARIABLES $(2X + 4)$

BYTES GIVING DIMENSION DATA AND SIZE  
OF TOTAL ARRAY ( $X = \text{DIMENSION ORDER}$ )

SINGLE = 1, DOUBLE = 2, TRIPLE = 3, etc  
ARRAY ELEMENTS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW (5 BYTES/  
ELEMENT)

ORDER = 1  $\rightarrow$ 

ab	pp:pp	nn:nn	<sup>①</sup> dd:dd	00:00
----	-------	-------	--------------------	-------

 array  $\rightarrow$

ORDER = 2  $\rightarrow$ 

ab	pp:pp	nn:nn	<sup>①</sup> dd:dd	<sup>②</sup> dd:dd	00:00
----	-------	-------	--------------------	--------------------	-------

 array  $\rightarrow$

ORDER = 3  $\rightarrow$ 

ab	pp:pp	nn:nn	<sup>①</sup> dd:dd	<sup>②</sup> dd:dd	<sup>③</sup> dd:dd	00:00
----	-------	-------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	-------

 array  $\rightarrow$

where nn nn = (byte reversed) total size  
of array in bytes.

<sup>①</sup> dd dd = 1<sup>ST</sup> DIMENSION (byte reversed)  
element count

<sup>②</sup> dd dd = 2<sup>ND</sup> DIMENSION (byte reversed)  
element count.

<sup>③</sup> dd dd = 3<sup>RD</sup> DIMENSION (byte reversed)  
element count.

00 00 = terminator byte (for dimensions)

example DIM A2(2, 3, 4) <sup>①</sup> 3 <sup>②</sup> by <sup>③</sup> 4 by 5 array = (60 elements)

22	pp:pp	2C:01	03:00	04:01	05:00	00:00
		nn:nn	<sup>①</sup> dd:dd	<sup>②</sup> dd:dd	<sup>③</sup> dd:dd	

 array  $\rightarrow$   
= 300<sub>10</sub>  
BYTES

# SUMMARY

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SUMMARIZES

[CODE/POINTER/TYPE DEPENDANT/VARIABLE] DATA.

NOTE \* ALL SHADED FIELDS ARE BYTE REVERSED

ab pp pp (byte reversed pointer to next element in list 00 00 if end of list)

SINGLE CHR	0F	pp pp	vv vv	vv vv	ee	
NUMERIC VAR	00	pp pp	vv vv	vv vv	ee	
TWO CHR	09	pp pp	vv vv	vv vv	ee	
NUMERIC VAR	8F	pp pp	ll ll	nn nn	string	
SINGLE CHR	80	pp pp	ll ll	nn nn	string	
TWO CHR	89	pp pp	ll ll	nn nn	string	
STRING						

LEFT JUSTIF.  
VV → VV = BCD VARIABLE  
EE = EXPONENT BYTE  
BIASED BY 40 HEX

ll ll = total length  
nn nn = current length

SINGLE CHR	2F	pp pp	nn nn	dd dd	00 00	array	
① DIMENSIONED NUMERIC	20	pp pp	nn nn	dd dd	00 00	array	
TWO CHR	29	pp pp	nn nn	dd dd	00 00	array	
① DIMENSIONED NUMERIC	2F	pp pp	nn nn	dd dd	dd dd	00 00	array
SINGLE CHR	20	pp pp	nn nn	dd dd	dd dd	00 00	array
② DIMENSIONED NUMERIC	29	pp pp	nn nn	dd dd	dd dd	00 00	array
TWO CHR	2F	pp pp	nn nn	dd dd	dd dd	dd dd	00 00
② DIMENSIONED NUMERIC	20	pp pp	nn nn	dd dd	dd dd	dd dd	00 00
SINGLE CHR	29	pp pp	nn nn	dd dd	dd dd	dd dd	00 00
③ DIMENSIONED NUMERIC	2F	pp pp	nn nn	dd dd	dd dd	dd dd	00 00
TWO CHR	20	pp pp	nn nn	dd dd	dd dd	dd dd	00 00
③ DIMENSIONED NUMERIC	29	pp pp	nn nn	dd dd	dd dd	dd dd	00 00

5 bytes/  
ELEMENT  
AS IN NUMERIC  
VARIABLES

dimension of array in  
elements.

nn nn = total length  
of array in  
bytes

SINGLE CHR.	4F	pp pp	gg gg	
FUNCTION NAME	40	pp pp	gg gg	
TWO CHR	49	pp pp	gg gg	
FUNCTION NAME	CF	pp pp	gg gg	
SINGLE CHR STRING	C0	pp pp	gg gg	
FUNCTION NAME	C9	pp pp	gg gg	
TWO CHR STRING				
FUNCTION NAME				

(gg gg) = address of function  
(in program memory)

|ab| = code byte |pp pp| = pointer bytes (reversed)  
|ll ll| = length of string as defined |nn nn| = current length

RUN

NORTH-STAR BASIC (REL 4) RESERVED WORD/SYMBOLS AND INTERNAL CODE

80 = LET	A0 = RUN	C0	E0 = (
81 = FOR	A1 = LIST	C1	E1 = ↑
82 = PRINT	A2 = MEMSET	C2	E2 = *
83 = NEXT	A3 = SCR	C3	E3 = +
84 = IF	A4 = AUTO	C4 = SQRT	E4
85 = READ	A5 = LOAD	C5	E5 = -
86 = INPUT	A6 = CONT	C6 = INT	E6
87 = DATA	A7 = APPEND	C7	E7 = /
88 = GOTO	A8 = REN	C8	E8
89 = GOSUB	A9 = NSAVE	C9	E9
8A = RETURN	AA = SAVE	CA = SGN	EA
8B = DIM	AB = BYE	CB = SIN	EB
8C = STOP	AC = EDIT	CC = LEN	EC = AND
8D = END	AD = DEL	CD = CALL	ED = OR
8E = RESTORE	AE = PSIZE	CE = RND	EE
8F = REM	AF = CAT	CF	EF = >=
90 = FN	B0 = STEP	D0	F0 = <=
91 = DEF	B1 = TO	D1	F1 = <>
92 = !	B2 = THEN	D2 = ATN	F2
93 = ON	B3 = TAB	D3	F3
94 = OUT	B4 = ELSE	D4	F4 = <
95 = FILL	B5 = CHR\$	D5	F5 = =
96 = EXIT	B6 = ASC	D6	F6 = >
97 = OPEN	B7 = VAL	D7	F7 = NOT
98 = CLOSE	B8 = STR\$	D8 = FREE	F8
99 = WRITE	B9 = NOENDMARK	D9 = INP	F9
9A = (LINE # NEXT)	BA = INCHAR\$	DA = EXAM	FA = [
9B = CHAIN	BB = FILE	DB = ABS	FB
9C = LINE	BC	DC = COS	FC
9D = DESTROY	BD	DD = LOG	FD
9E = CREATE	BE	DE = EXP	FE
9F = ERRSET	BF	DF = TYP	FF

READY

## APPENDIX: RELEASE 3 CHANGES TO NORTH STAR BASIC

Release 3 BASIC fixes all reported bugs in Release 2 BASIC, and also makes several additions. Release 3 is a superset of Release 2 - all programs which run under Release 2 should run under Release 3. Note that the size of BASIC has increased - now a 45 block file is required.

A) Multiple input/output devices. Now PRINT, INPUT, LIST, and LINE may specify a "device expression" as an optional first argument preceded by a number sign, e.g.:

```
PRINT #3,A,B,C
INPUT #X,"TYPE A NUMBER: ",N
LIST #2,100,500
LINE #2,64
```

Device 0 is assumed if the device expression is missing. Also, device 0 is always used for command communication in direct mode and in the DOS. LINE becomes an executable statement instead of a command, so that device line lengths can be set up within programs as well as in direct mode.

The device value, which must be between 0 and 7 inclusive, is communicated in the ACC to the DOS CIN and COUT routines. The DOS routines can then decide which device to communicate with based on the contents of the ACC. Note that no changes are needed for the DOS I/O routines if this feature will not be used. Also note that this feature may be used to communicate string values to machine language subroutines.

B) Delete command. The DEL command has been added to allow the deletion of a block of program statements. For example,

```
DEL 100,200
```

will delete all program statements with line numbers in the range of 100 through 200 inclusive.

C) Byte access to data files. It is now possible to access a data file in BASIC at the byte level. A numeric value in the range of 0 to 255 may be written into or read from a specified byte address in a data file. These byte accesses may be performed in either sequential or random mode. To indicate byte mode, an ampersand (&) is placed before the variable to be read into or the expression to be written out. For example,

```
10 READ #0,A,&B
20 WRITE #1,&X+1,B$
30 READ #0&X,&T,&T1
40 WRITE #F&X,&ASC("a")
```



D) Determining file length. The length of a data file may be determined by adding an optional variable name at the end of the OPEN statement. After the OPEN statement, the variable will contain the number of 256-byte blocks in the file. For example, if the file DATA is 30 blocks long, then

```
20 OPEN #0,"DATA",L
```

will place 30 in L after successful opening.

E) Multiple program execution. The CHAIN statement has been added to allow one program to cause another BASIC program to be loaded into the program area and executed. Execution of the CHAIN statement has an identical effect to stopping the current program, loading the new program, and typing RUN. Thus all variables are re-initialized, and all open files are closed. Communication between the two programs must be done either by writing variables onto a data file or into an area of RAM using EXAM and FILL.

```
20 CHAIN "PART2"
```

F) Arctangent. The function ATN has been added for computing the arctangent of a specified value.

G) Size changes. The above additions have expanded the size of BASIC by about 1/2 K over the size of Release 2. For those who need more RAM space for programs and data, there is a method of releasing the space used by the mathematical functions. The following table shows how much ENDBAS may be reduced by to remove each of the functions listed. Note that the functions must be released in the order presented (i.e., it is not possible to remove EXP and keep ATN).

ATN	A0 Hex
SIN-COS	130 Hex
SIN-COS	130 Hex
LOG	90 Hex
EXP	90 Hex

We will appreciate hearing written reports of any errors you detect in Release 3 BASIC.

## RELEASE 4 SYSTEM SOFTWARE CHANGES

North Star Computers

June, 1978

These notes, in conjunction with the following documents:

North Star BASIC, Version 6, Revision 5

The North Star Disk Operating System, Version 2, Release 3

The North Star MONITOR, Version 1, Revision 5

describe the Release 4 System Software (BASIC, DOS, and Monitor) distributed beginning in June, 1978. These notes are intended to describe the improvements made since the above documents were published. A new manual, "North Star SYSTEM SOFTWARE" is in preparation. This manual contains revised, expanded, and updated documentation on BASIC, DOS, and the Monitor.

### RELEASE 4 BASIC

The Release 3 version of North Star BASIC has been in use since August, 1977. The Release 3 description notes are included as an appendix to these notes for those who are not familiar with Release 3 BASIC. The proper sequence of reading is: BASIC manual, Release 3 appendix, and finally the following description.

#### New BASIC Commands

##### PSIZE

This command will cause the size of the current BASIC program to be printed on the terminal. The value printed will be the number of file blocks (i.e., 256-byte blocks) required to store the program.

##### NSAVE <file name> <optional file size>

The NSAVE command will create a new type 2 file and store the current program on that file. The size of the new program may be specified (in file blocks) by the optional second argument. If the optional size is not supplied, then NSAVE will make the new file 3 blocks larger than required. Note that the optional size argument is separated from the file name by a blank character instead of a comma as other BASIC commands.

NSAVE TEMP,2

NSAVE NEW,2 25

##### CAT <optional # device number,> <optional drive number>

The CAT command will print the directory (catalog) on the

specified disk drive (drive 1 is the default). An optional output device number may be specified as in the LIST command.

CAT

CAT 2

CAT #2,3

CAT #2

MEMSET <memory address>

This command may be used to change the upper bound of the program and data region available to BASIC. The change will become permanent (i.e., if the version of BASIC is re-entered at any entry point, the new memory size will remain).

The following example sets the upper bound to the standard value used with a 16K RAM board addressed at 2000H (8192):

MEMSET 24575

AUTO <optional initial value>,<optional increment>

The AUTO command will enter automatic line number mode. In this mode, a new line number will be printed at the start of every line. The first argument specifies the initial line number (default is 10) and the second argument specifies the increment (default is 10). Auto line number mode will persist until one of the following occurs: a) a null line is entered (i.e., a carriage return is typed immediately after the line number) or, b) a command is typed (by using the editor to delete the line number from the beginning of the line).

AUTO

AUTO 1000

AUTO 100,100

APPEND <file name>

The APPEND command may be used to load the specified program at the end of the current program. Thus, concatenating two programs is possible with the APPEND command. It is an error to append a file whose first line number is less than or equal to the last line number of the current program.

APPEND TEMP,2

### BASIC Personalization Bytes

ENTRY POINT #3 (2A14H,10772D)

This is a new entry point to BASIC which is similar to the 2A04 entry point, but which also will preserve the values of all variables.

AUTOS (2A0FH,10767D)

This byte allows for creating a copy of BASIC which will immediately begin execution of a BASIC program after the GO command. Proceed as follows: 1)GO BASIC and load the desired program. 2)Execute the PSIZE command. 3)Leave BASIC with BYE, and change the AUTOS byte from 1 to 0. 4)Create a file (e.g.,

GAME) with size equal to the size of BASIC plus the PSIZE value (e.g., 57). 5) Set the type to 1 and go-address to 2A00. 6) Do an SF GAME 2A00. Subsequent execution of GO GAME will be equivalent to GO BASIC; LOAD prog; RUN.

CONC (2A18H,10776D)

Changing this byte from 0 to 1 inhibits the use of control-C for program interruption. When control-C is inhibited, the CONTC routine in DOS will not be called during program execution. Note that control-C can be enabled and disabled under program control by use of the FILL statement.

PAGES (2A13H,10771D)

If PAGES is non-zero, then all LIST commands to device 0 will be done in "paging mode". In paging mode, after PAGES-1 lines have been printed, the user will be asked to type a carriage return to continue the listing.

BSPC (2A17H,10775D)

This byte specifies the character to be printed when the character-delete editing command (underline or control-Q or backspace) is typed. Users with CRT terminals may wish to change the BSPC character from underline to backspace (08H).

LINECT (2A0EH,10766D)

This byte contains the initial line length used by BASIC. The default value is 80. The maximum value allowed is 132.

LINETB (2A11H,10769D)

These two bytes contain a pointer to the "print head table" in BASIC which contains a one-byte current cursor or print head position for each of the 8 I/O devices (starting with device 0). For some applications such as plotting, some users may wish to EXAM or FILL these bytes to avoid getting the LENGTH ERROR message.

Immediately following the print head table is the file table, which contains one 10-byte entry for each of the 8 possible open files. Byte 0: status byte, bytes 1-2: buffer address, bytes 3-4: disk address of file, bytes 5-6: number of blocks in file, bytes 7-9: current file pointer.

PROM (2A10H,10768D)

This byte must be changed from 0E8H if a non-standard origin disk controller PROM is used. If this byte is not changed, then the new randomizing feature will not work.

### File Processing in BASIC

Data files are no longer restricted to a maximum size of 64K bytes, and data files are no longer restricted to be of type 3. Also, up to 8 data files may be simultaneously open at any one time. The following statements have been added or extended:

CREATE <file name string>,<length><optional type>

This statement will attempt to create a new file with the specified name and length (given in 256-byte blocks). The type of the file may be optionally specified as the third argument, otherwise type 3 will be used.

CREATE "TEMP",5

CREATE "DATA,2",300,9

CREATE B\$,N,T

DESTROY <file name string>

This statement will attempt to destroy the specified file. The file may be of any type. As with most file statements, the DESTROY statement may be executed as a direct statement.  
DESTROY "TEMP,2"

OPEN #<file number>%<file type>,<file name>,<optional variable>

The OPEN statement has been extended so that if a % follows the file number expression in an OPEN statement, then the following expression specifies the type that the specified file must be. If the % is omitted, then the file must be of type 3.

OPEN #N %9, "DATA,2"

The following new function has been added:

FILE(<file name string>)

This function will return a -1 as value if the specified disk file does not exist. Otherwise, if the file exists, then the function will return the type of the file.

T=FILE("TEMP,2")

T=FILE(F\$)

#### Randomizing the BASIC Random Number Generator

If the RND function is called with a negative argument, then the random number seed will be set to a "random" starting value. [This is accomplished by measuring the time to the next disk sector pulse.] After once using T=RND(-1) to set the seed, subsequent random numbers should be obtained by using RND(0). Note that better results will be obtained if user input is requested between any disk accesses and the call on RND(-1).

#### Error Trapping in BASIC

A new statement has been added for allowing a BASIC program to retain control even when errors occur. To enable the error trapping mode, the statement:

ERRSET <line number>,<variable>,<variable>

should be used. The line number specifies where control should be passed when an error occurs. The two variables will be set to the line number of the offending statement, and the type code for the error, respectively. The trappable errors and their type codes are:

- 1 ARGUMENT ERROR
- 2 DIMENSION ERROR
- 3 OUT OF BOUNDS ERROR
- 4 TYPE ERROR
- 5 FORMAT ERROR
- 6 LINE NUMBER ERROR
- 7 FILE ERROR
- 8 HARD DISK ERROR
- 9 DIVIDE ZERO ERROR
- 10 SYNTAX ERROR
- 11 READ ERROR
- 12 INPUT ERROR
- 13 ARG MISMATCH ERROR
- 14 NUMERIC OVERFLOW ERROR
- 15 STOP (on control-C)

Note that control-C is trappable (but may be disabled as described above if desired).

When an error occurs, error trapping is turned off, control is passed to the specified line, and the variables are set. All GOSUB, user function, and FOR NEXT histories are left intact, so that it is possible to continue after the error. Error trapping mode may be disabled by executing an ERRSET statement with no arguments.

### BASIC Math Functions

The math functions SIN, COS, EXP, and LOG have been rewritten to improve accuracy. The ATN function has not yet been changed. The math functions may be deleted as described in the Release 3 appendix.

### Miscellaneous BASIC Changes

A new function INCHAR\$(<device number expression>) has been added. This function will await the typing of a single character from the specified device, and return that character as a single-character string. Control characters as well as printing characters are allowed. The character will not automatically be "echoed" to the device.

```
10 T$=INCHAR$(0)\ PRINT T$,
```

The VAL function will now accept strings which have initial blanks. Note that the STR\$ function does conversion based on the current default PRINT format.

If a control-N or at-sign editing character is used to edit the response to an INPUT statement that has a prompt (e.g., INPUT "AGE: ",A\$), then the prompt will be retyped at the beginning of the new line.

The LIST command now has four forms:

LIST	list entire program
LIST 100	list specified line
LIST 100,	list specified line thru end of program
LIST 100,200	list lines indicated by range

Due to reassignment of reserved word values, the appearance of the word CREATE in REM statements of old programs will be changed to AUTO in Release 4. Likewise, DUMP will be changed to MEMSET and NULL will be changed to NSAVE.

The NSAVE command and CREATE statements will not work correctly if Release 4 BASIC is run on a Release 3 DOS.

Release 4 BASIC is a superset of Release 3 BASIC, and all programs that ran under Release 3 should run under Release 4.

The enhancements to BASIC have enlarged it to about 12.5K (50 block file). [The M5700 Monitor program now overlaps BASIC.] You may wish to retain your copy of Release 3 BASIC for those applications where you do not need the new features but do need to save as much memory as possible.

#### RELEASE 4 DOS CHANGES

Note that the following changes apply to all personalized and unpersonalized versions of the DOS.

1. Compact removed. The CO command has been removed, and now is provided as a separate GO file, called COMPACT. To compact the file space of a diskette, do GO COMPACT. COMPACT will then ask you to mount the diskette to be compacted and specify the drive number. Remember that compact may not be used on diskettes which contain any zero-length files or any overlapping files.
2. Turnkey startup. A version of the DOS may be created so that

at bootstrap startup, a specified command (e.g., GO BASIC) is immediately executed after the terminal initialization routine returns to DOS. To create such a version of DOS:

1) Load a fresh copy of DOS into RAM, 2) Change byte 28E4B from a 1 to a 0, 3) Enter the ASCII codes for the desired command beginning at byte 27BFH (followed by a carriage return), 4) Save the modified DOS on diskette at disk address 4. It should now be possible to use the modified DOS to perform the desired command immediately after bootstrap load. [For convenience, GO BASIC has already been entered, so if that is the desired command, all that must be done is to modify the flag byte.] 28E5

3. Output device specification. The LI command may take an optional output device specification, as in BASIC. An optional number sign followed by the device number may immediately follow the LI command.

LI #2	List drive 1 on device 2
LI #2 3	List drive 3 on device 2
LI	List drive 1 on device 0
LI 2	List drive 2 on device 0

4. Paging. The LI command may be personalized so that after each N lines of file directory listing, the message "TYPE RETURN TO CONTINUE" will be printed. Personalize byte 28F8 to the number of lines on your CRT screen. To disable paging mode, set the byte to 0.

Note that the personalization process described on page 14 of the DOS manual should now create a 50 block file for BASIC rather than a 45 block file.

## MONITOR

The Monitor has not been changed. However, a fifth Monitor, M6700 is provided on the Release 4 diskette. The M6700 Monitor is personalized with its own I/O routines which communicate with a HORIZON standard serial port, as opposed to using the DOS interfacing conventions. The M6700 Monitor has been added because the M5700 Monitor can no longer be used to personalize the enlarged Release 4 BASIC.

As always, we will appreciate hearing as soon as possible about any problems you may encounter.



## APPENDIX: RELEASE 3 CHANGES TO NORTH STAR BASIC

Release 3 BASIC fixes all reported bugs in Release 2 BASIC, and also makes several additions. Release 3 is a superset of Release 2 - all programs which run under Release 2 should run under Release 3. Note that the size of BASIC has increased - now a 45 block file is required.

A) Multiple input/output devices. Now PRINT, INPUT, LIST, and LINE may specify a "device expression" as an optional first argument preceded by a number sign, e.g.:

```
PRINT #3,A,B,C
INPUT #X,"TYPE A NUMBER: ",N
LIST #2,100,500
LINE #2,64
```

Device 0 is assumed if the device expression is missing. Also, device 0 is always used for command communication in direct mode and in the DOS. LINE becomes an executable statement instead of a command, so that device line lengths can be set up within programs as well as in direct mode.

The device value, which must be between 0 and 7 inclusive, is communicated in the ACC to the DOS CIN and COUT routines. The DOS routines can then decide which device to communicate with based on the contents of the ACC. Note that no changes are needed for the DOS I/O routines if this feature will not be used. Also note that this feature may be used to communicate string values to machine language subroutines.

B) Delete command. The DEL command has been added to allow the deletion of a block of program statements. For example,

```
DEL 100,200
```

will delete all program statements with line numbers in the range of 100 through 200 inclusive.

C) Byte access to data files. It is now possible to access a data file in BASIC at the byte level. A numeric value in the range of 0 to 255 may be written into or read from a specified byte address in a data file. These byte accesses may be performed in either sequential or random mode. To indicate byte mode, an ampersand (&) is placed before the variable to be read into or the expression to be written out. For example,

```
10 READ #0,A,&B
20 WRITE #1,&X+1,B$
30 READ #0%&X,&T,&T1
40 WRITE #F%&X,&ASC("a")
```

D) Determining file length. The length of a data file may be determined by adding an optional variable name at the end of the OPEN statement. After the OPEN statement, the variable will contain the number of 256-byte blocks in the file. For example, if the file DATA is 30 blocks long, then

```
20 OPEN #0,"DATA",L
```

will place 30 in L after successful opening.

E) Multiple program execution. The CHAIN statement has been added to allow one program to cause another BASIC program to be loaded into the program area and executed. Execution of the CHAIN statement has an identical effect to stopping the current program, loading the new program, and typing RUN. Thus all variables are re-initialized, and all open files are closed. Communication between the two programs must be done either by writing variables onto a data file or into an area of RAM using EXAM and FILL.

```
20 CHAIN "PART2"
```

F) Arctangent. The function ATN has been added for computing the arctangent of a specified value.

G) Size changes. The above additions have expanded the size of BASIC by about 1/2 K over the size of Release 2. For those who need more RAM space for programs and data, there is a method of releasing the space used by the mathematical functions. The following table shows how much ENDBAS may be reduced by to remove each of the functions listed. Note that the functions must be released in the order presented (i.e., it is not possible to remove EXP and keep ATN).

ATN	A0 Hex
SIN-COS	130 Hex
SIN-COS	130 Hex
LOG	90 Hex
EXP	90 Hex

We will appreciate hearing written reports of any errors you detect in Release 3 BASIC.

HORIZON ERRATA AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
For North Star HORIZON Manual (REVISION 2)

June 22, 1978

1. The files on the HORIZON software diskette are as follows:

DOS	Release 4 Disk Operating System
BASIC	Release 4 BASIC
FPBASIC	Release 4 BASIC for use with FPB
M0000	Release 1.1 Monitor
M2A00	Release 1.1 Monitor
MF400	Release 1.1 Monitor
M5700	Release 1.1 Monitor with I/O routines
M6700	Release 1.1 Monitor with I/O routines
2. The parts for the Disk Drive #1 power regulation assembly, page 37, are included in the sack labeled "MDS-H SACK".
3. The + lead on some tantalum capacitors are marked with a dot instead of a plus sign.
4. The HORIZON I/O routines listed in Appendix 2 have been modified to communicate with the second serial port as device number 1 and with the parallel port as device number 2, for those systems using the optional I/O ports.
5. There are two errors in the Release 4 System Software Changes: on pages 8-9, under Turnkey Startup of the DOS, the flag byte address should be 28E5H, and the command buffer address should be 27C0H.

We would like to make this documentation as clear and as complete as possible. If you find any errors or have any suggestions, please let us know.

# Release 4 Software Errata Sheet

North Star Computers, Inc.

June 30, 1978

1. An error has been detected in Release 4 BASIC. When doing a SAVE or NSAVE of a program which requires N file blocks to a file whose size is N-1 blocks long, BASIC will actually save the file, clobbering the first disk block following the file on the diskette. The error may be corrected by making the following changes:

ADDRESS	OLD VALUE	NEW VALUE
305CH (12380D)	CAH (202D)	✓ 0
305DH (12381D)	62H ( 98D)	✓ 0
305EH (12382D)	30H ( 48D)	✓ 0

For FPBASIC, the changes are:

ADDRESS	OLD VALUE	NEW VALUE
3061H (12385D)	CAH (202D)	0
3062H (12386D)	67H (103D)	0
3063H (12387D)	30H ( 48D)	0

The change may be made by using the Monitor, or by modifying BASIC with the following 3 statements (make appropriate adjustment for FPBASIC):

```
FILL 12380,0
FILL 12381,0
FILL 12382,0
```

After executing the three FILL statements, leave BASIC with BYE, and save the modified copy of BASIC using the SF command.

Note that special orders of Release 4 BASIC (different origins and/or different precisions) have this error fixed already).

2. There are two errors in the Release 4 Software Changes at the top of page 7. The flag byte address is 28E5H, not 28E4H, and the command buffer address is 27C0H, not 27BFH.

**RELEASE 3  
NORTH STAR VERSION 6 BASIC**

Release 3 BASIC fixes all reported bugs in Release 2 BASIC, and also makes several additions. Release 3 is a superset of Release 2 - all programs which run under Release 2 should run under Release 3. Note that the size of BASIC has increased - now a 45 block file is required.

A) Multiple input/output devices. Now PRINT, INPUT, LIST, and LINE may specify a "device expression" as an optional first argument preceded by a number sign, e.g.

```
PRINT #3,A,B,C
INPUT #X,"TYPE A NUMBER: ",N
LIST #2,100,500
LINE #2,64
```

Device 0 is assumed if the device expression is missing. Also, device 0 is always used for command communication in direct mode and in the DOS. LINE becomes an executable statement instead of a command, so that device line lengths can also be set up within programs as well as in direct mode.

The device value, which must be between 0 and 7 inclusive, is communicated in the ACC to the DOS CIN and COUT routines. The DOS routines can then decide which device to communicate with based on the contents of the ACC. Note that no changes are needed for the DOS I/O routines if this feature will not be used. Also note that this feature may be used to communicate string values to machine language subroutines.

B) Delete command. The DEL command has been added to allow the deletion of a block of program statements. For example,

```
DEL 100,200
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will delete all program statements with line numbers in the range of 100 through 200 inclusive.

C) Byte access to data files. It is now possible to access a data file in BASIC at the byte level. A numeric value in the range of 0 to 255 may be written into or read from a specified byte address in a data file. These byte accesses may be performed in either sequential or random access mode. To indicate byte mode, an ampersand (&) is placed before the variable to be read into or the expression to be written out. For example,

```
10 READ #0,A,&B
```

```

20 WRITE #1,&X+1,BS
30 READ #0 &X,&T,&T1
40 WRITE #F,&X,&ASC("a")

```

D) Determining file length. The length of a data file may be determined by adding an optional variable name at the end of the OPEN statement. After the OPEN statement, the variable will contain the number of 256 byte blocks in the file. For example, if the file DATA is 30 blocks long, then

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20 CHAIN "PART2"
```

F) ARCTANGENT. The function ATN has been added for computing the arctangent of a specified value.

G) SIZE CHANGES. The above additions have expanded the size of BASIC by about 1/2K over the size of Release 2. For those who need more RAM space for programs and data, there is a method of releasing the space used by the mathematical functions. The following table shows how much ENDBAS may be reduced by to remove each of the functions listed. Note that functions must be released in the order presented (i.e., it is not possible to remove EXP and keep ATN).

			ENDBAS VALUE		
ATN	A0 HEX	160	529B	hex	= 3427 free
SIN-COS	130 HEX	304	533B	hex	
LOG	90 HEX	144	546B	hex	
EXP	90 HEX	144	54FB	hex	
		(152)	BASE	558C	hex = 2675 free

We will appreciate written reports of any errors you detect in Release 3 BASIC.

