

TR-81-004

具有多用者編輯能力之智慧型前端機

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## 具有多用者編輯能力之智慧型前端機

摘要：

這篇報告旨在描述一個以微處理機為底具有多用者編輯能力的前端機之設計與建立。

在這個前端機內，軟體程式包含一個即時事件驅動多工控制核心程式，一個具有再出入性質的編輯器程式，以及一個負責與主機通信的通信程式。同時，我們設計一個檔案傳輸的通信協定，提供可靠而有效的主機與前端機間之通信。

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Design and Implementation of a Front End Processor with  
Multiuser Editing Capability

**Abstract**

This report describes the design and implementation of a microcomputer-based front end processor (FEP) which allows multiusers to edit files concurrently.

To provide such an environment with FEP, a real time event-driven multitasking executive has been designed. The application task (editor task) is coded in a reentrant form so that it can be shared by users. A file transfer protocol has also been designed to facilitate reliable and efficient communication between the host and the FEP.

## 1. Introduction

Fig.1.1 shows a conventional computer system. The users edit their files directly under the control of the host computer (The host computer can be a mini- or main-frame computer). Most of the time the editing task in the system is suspended and waiting for the user's input, since the user's input speed is much slower than the processing speed of the computer. If many users invoke the editing utility at the same time, there will be more tasks in waiting state. From the operating system's viewpoint, the more the tasks are in waiting state, the worse is the system performance, since the waiting task may occupy memory space, require swapping in-out between memory and disk to allow other task's execution, and spend the scheduling time of the operating system.

Moreover, the input of users from terminals to the host computer always induce some overhead for the system to process these inputs. This overhead can not be avoided.

Fig.1.2 shows a general software development procedure; the program is edited and then tested. If the testing result is correct then the procedure ends. If not, some modification has to be made to the program; that is, the program needs to be edited again. We can find that the editing work introduces a lot of terminal I/O. If we can move editing tasks from the host computer to a low cost front end processor (see Fig.1.3) then the overall system performance will be greatly improved. It is the purpose of this report to present a front end processor which allows multiusers to edit programs simultaneously.

In recent years, because of the hardware technique improvement and its cost reduction, the application capability of microcomputer has become more powerful, and the application area also becomes more widely than before. A new area is to use microcomputers for multiuser applications. In this report, we will present a software design model for multiuser editing application.

In order to save the program space, it is required that one editor program be shared by users. This could be accomplished by coding it in a reen-

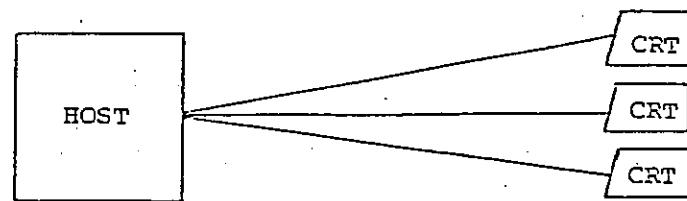


Fig.1.1

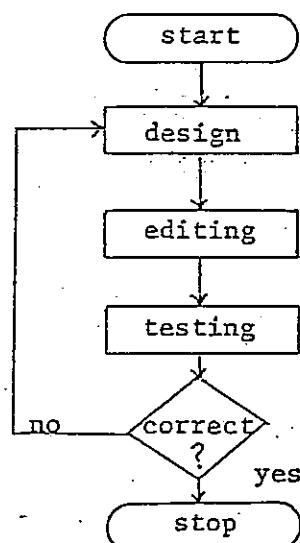


Fig.1.2

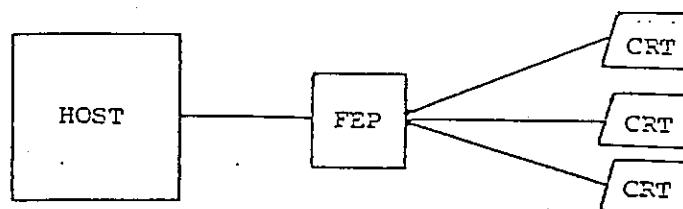


Fig.1.3

trant from. In this report, we will also discuss several techniques of writing reentrant codes in a microcomputer.

Since the file to be edited has to be moved from the host to the FEP and back to the host again after editing is complete, this report finally addresses file transfer protocols between the host and the FEP.

## 2. System Overview

The hardware architecture is illustrated in Fig.2.1. There are only two boards included in this system, one is the MCB (micro-computer board) that has been modified to allow 16K bytes RAM and 16K bytes ROM, the other is the SIB (serial interface board) which provides four channels of terminal interfaces.

The software architecture of the system is illustrated in Fig.2.2. There is a control task in host computer. It handles all the file-transfer operations, including open, close, retrieval, and storage. It also communicates with the FEP via a physical link according to the file transfer protocol.

On the FEP side, the software is separated into three modules, and each module can be designed and implemented independently. This will reduce the system design cycle. The first module is an executive, its function is more or less the same as the kernel of an operating system.

The second module is a communication task, all the communication operations are processed here, such as message packing/unpacking, the execution of the file transfer commands, etc. It also performs some concurrency control over the editing tasks, for there may be more than one user requesting to retrieve or store files at the same time.

The third module is an editing task, it accepts the user's commands and processes these commands. It also issues a request to communication task to transfer files between the host and the FEP. Since the editing task is shared by several users, it is coded in a reentrant form.

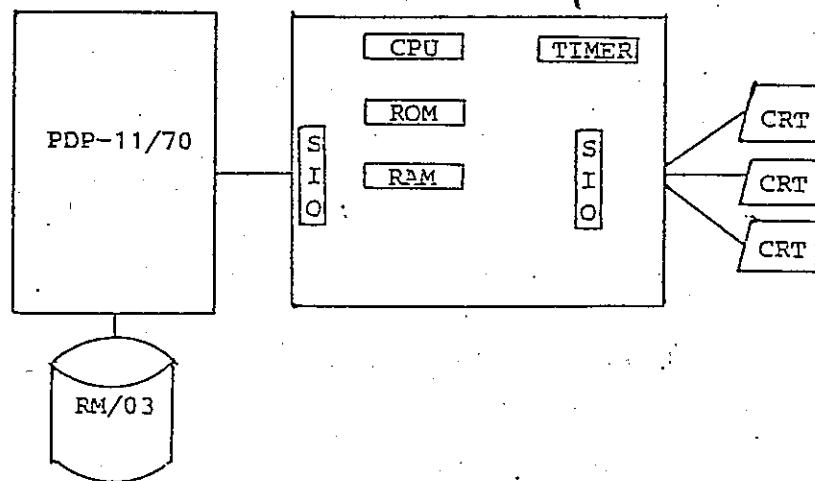


Fig.2.1

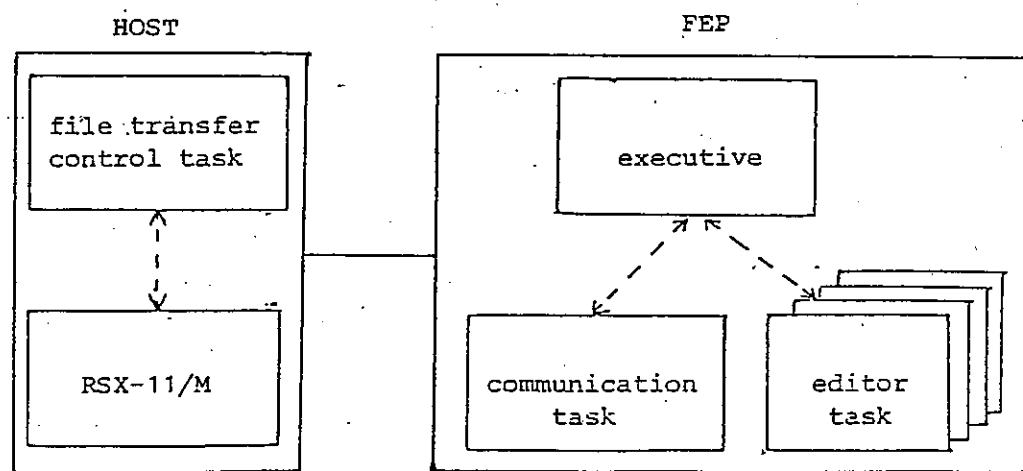


Fig.2.2

### 3. Hardware Construction

As a front end processor, a system with a minimum hardware cost seems to fit a least requirement. In the edit FEP, a minimum hardware configuration is considered, only two boards required. In this section we will describe their module functions.

MCB (the Zilog Z80-MCB) is a single board microcomputer designed to be adaptable to a wide range of OEM applications. The block diagram on the Fig.3.1 identifies the major components on the board, the heart of which is the Z80 microprocessor. Associated logic includes 4K bytes of dynamic RAM, provision for up to 4K bytes EPROM, both parallel and serial I/O ports, I/O ports decoders and a crystal controlled clock. The parallel port is implemented with the Z80-PIO with area reserved for user-applied driver and/or receiver logic. The Z80-CTC is used as a baud rate generator for the serial interface implemented with an 8251 USART.

SIB (the Z80-SIB) uses four 8251 USART devices to implement the serial communication channels. Two Z80-CTC devices are used to accommodate Z80 interrupt capability for receive and transmit operations for each bi-directional serial channel. A third Z80-CTC device is provided to accommodate programmable baud rates for each serial port from 50 to 9600 baud derived from an on-board crystal, the system clock, or an external clock.

The schematic diagrams of the two boards are supplied in appendix.

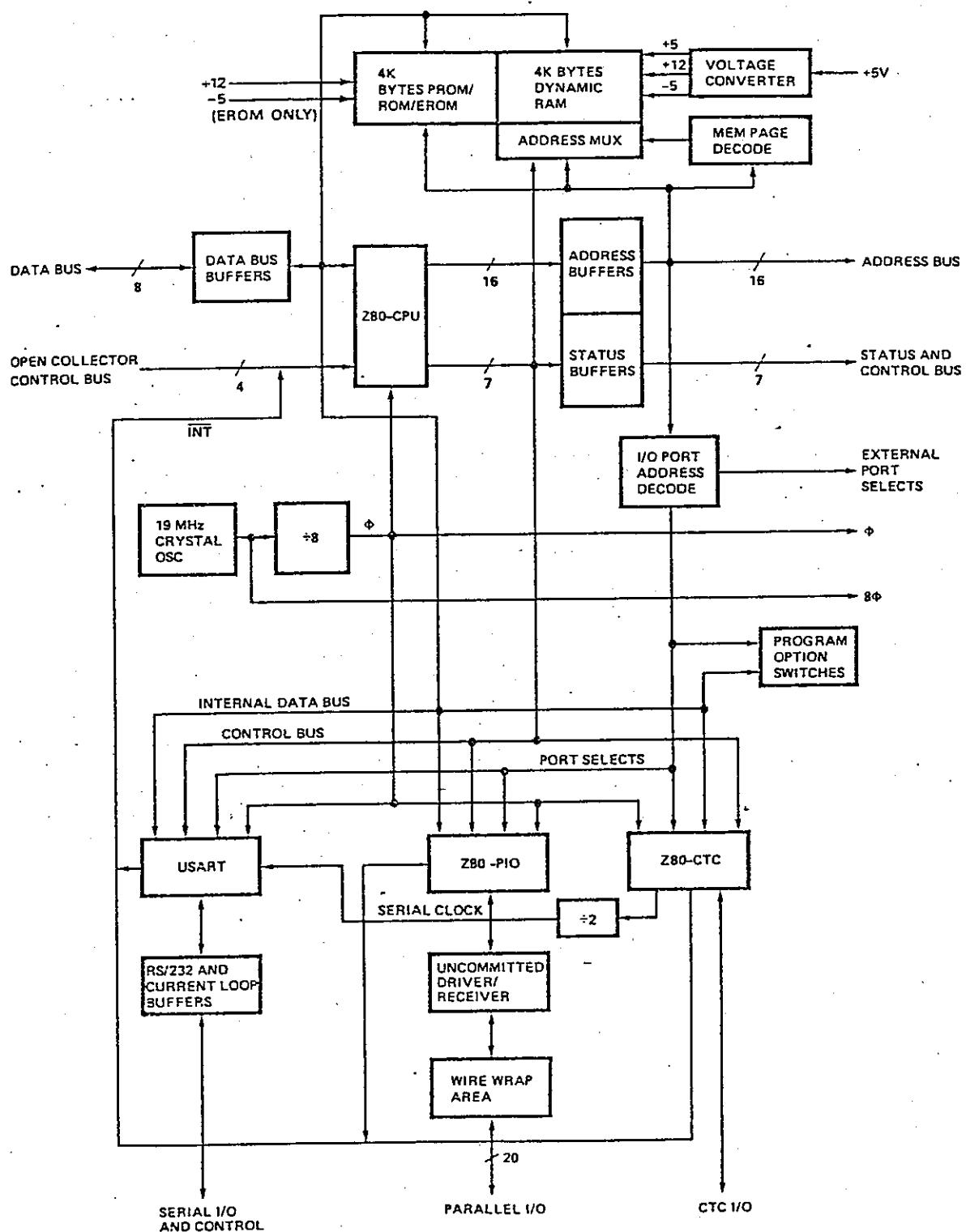
#### 3.1 Hardware Modifications

There are several modifications over the board from its original deliveries to make our own system configurations. The primary modifications are through the 'jumpers' to select memory mapping and I/O addressing.

(1) MCB:

RAM memory jumpers

We have changed the 4K RAM capacity to 16K RAM capacity



Z80-MCB BLOCK DIAGRAM

Fig.3.1

J1-10/J1-12, J1-9/J1-16, J1-8/J1-11

.RAM page decoding

The RAM is placed on the hex addresses 4000 - 7FFF.

J3-3/J3-9, J3-11/J3-12

.ROM page decoding

The ROM is placed on the hex addresses 0000 - 3FFF.

J3-3/J3-15, J3-13/J3-16

.serial interface interrupt jumper

The serial interface in MCB is used to communicate with host, it will generate interrupt when any receive or transmit operation is occurred.

J1-13/J1-1

.serial interface jumpers

The serial interface mode is selected as follows: RS-232-C, MCB='MODEM', always 'clear to send', ignore 'request to send', signal swings from +12V to negative supply.

J4-1/J4-2, J4-9/J4-10, J4-5/J4-6, J4-14/J4-15,  
J4-12/J4-11, J4-4/J4-7/J4-16, J5-1/J5-8

(2)SIB:

.port address range selection

The port address range is selected between hex 80 and 9F

J4-5/J4-16, J4-1/J4-7, J4-4/J4-6

.port of device selection

device	J1 jumper	port address
CTC0	1 - 12	80H - 83H
CTC1	2 - 11	84H - 87H
CTC2	3 - 10	88H - 8BH
USART 0	4 - 14	8CH - 8DH
USART 1		8EH - 8FH
USART 2	5 - 13	90H - 91H
USART 3		92H - 93H

.baud rate generation

The on board PHI/2 is used as clock source

J3-6/J3-11/J3-12/J3-13

.USART clock input

CTC CLK0 drives the TxC0,RxC0,TxC1,RxC1 J2-2/J2-5/J2-6/J2-13/J2-14  
CTC CLK1 drives the TxC1,RxC2 J2-3/J2-15/J2-16  
CTC CLK2 drives the TxC3,RxC3 J2-4/J2-1/J2-12

#### 4. A Real Time Event-driven Multitasking Executive

In order to accomplish the multiuser facility, a multitasking architecture is required to reduce the software design effort. Different modules can be separated into independent tasks, with a minimum coupling during system design stage. Moreover, we can assign different tasks to different users, in which different tasks may share the same program. In this system, we have designed a simple but useful executive (REMX), to provide a multi-tasking environment.

A task in the system is an independently executable program. Associated with each task is a task control block (TCB), which is used to maintain control information about the task, such as the program entry point, stack pointer, event control word, and some pointer fields about messages. Each task can be in one of the three states, namely RUN, READY, and BLOCK (WAIT). The state of a task is stored at the task status word (TSW) in TCB.

The communication between tasks is through the "message exchange channel". There are two types of channels in our system, one is the software channel for inter-task communication and the other is the I/O channel for task-device communication. A task may send a message to a channel or receive a message from a channel.

The synchronization between tasks and I/O devices is through an "event flag" mechanism. A task may send a message to a channel and declare an event flag for synchronization. By associating task operations with event flags, several operations can proceed concurrently and may be synchronized by the mechanism of event flags. Upon the occurrence of an event the processing of the current task may be continued or discontinued, depending on the dynamic requirements of the system.

There are five modules contained in the REMX :

- (1) the task scheduler,
- (2) the memory manager,
- (3) the inter-task communication manager,
- (4) the input/output communication manager,
- (5) the real time manager.

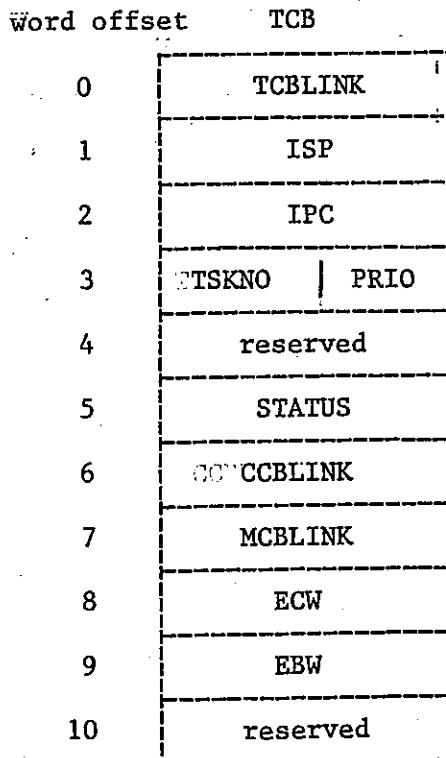
The task scheduler manages the overall system, schedules tasks, and keeps track of the task status. The memory manager handles the memory allocation and deallocation. The two communication modules control the flow of messages among tasks. The real time manager maintains the real time clock and allows the creation of events based on timers.

There are several system primitives that users can issue them to active system functions. Fig.4.1 illustrates these system primitives.

#### 4.1 The data structures of REMX

The whole system, under the monitoring of the REMX, has three basic data structures to achieve multitasking, channel communication, and message exchange facilities. Each of them, task, channel and message, is associated with a control block to maintain its relevant information, namely the TCB, the CCB, and the MCB. In this section the data structures will be presented.

##### (1) TCB (Task Control Block) :

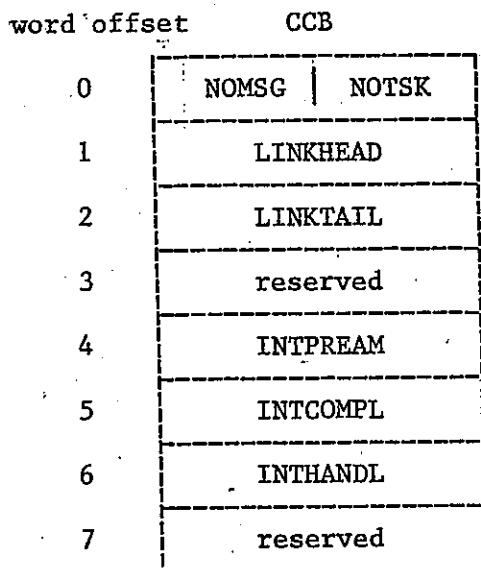


.TWAIT: wait a specified time slice  
.MARKT: mark a time event flag  
.WAITE: wait an event flag  
.CMRT : cancel previously marked timer  
.SEND : send a message from a channel  
.SENDW: send and wait until the other party received  
.RECV : receive a message from a channel  
.RECVW: wait until a message arrived  
.SIGNL: signal an event flag  
.IO : issue an I/O request  
.IOW : issue an I/O request and wait until I/O complete  
.CNRIO: cancel the previously issued I/O request

Fig.4.1

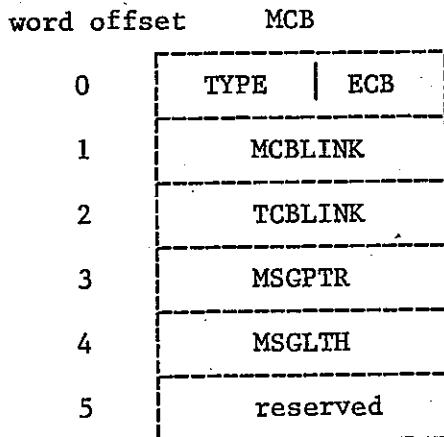
TCBLINK: link pointer to other TCB with same priority  
 ISP : initial stack pointer  
 IPC : initial program entry point  
 TSKNO : task number  
 PRIO : priority level number  
 STATUS : task status word  
 CCBLINK: link to CCB while blocked for channel  
 MCBLINK: link to MCB while receiving a message  
 ECW : event control word, 1 bit per event  
 EBW : event block word, 1 bit per event

(2)CCB (Channel Control Block):



NOMSG : number of messages available on the channel  
 NOTSK : number of tasks waiting for message  
 LINKHEAD : message queue head pointer  
 LINKTAIL : message queue tail pointer  
 INTPREAM : interrupt preamble routine address  
 INTCOMPL : interrupt completion routine address  
 INTHANDL : interrupt handler routine address

(3) MCB (Message Control Block):



TYPE : user supplied message type

ECB : event control byte

MCBLINK: link pointer to next MCB in CCB message queue

TCBLINK: link pointer to the sending TCB

MSGPTR : message buffer pointer

MSGLTH : message length

## 4.2 The Control Flow and Algorithm of the REMX

The software of REMX is structured and shown as Fig.4.2

- (a) INIT : system initialization routine
- (b) TSKMGR : task manager
- (c) COMMGR : inter-task communication manager
- (d) TIMMGR : timer manager
- (e) IOMGR : input/output device handling manager

### 4.2.1 INIT

The INIT module initializes the whole system including system parameters, TCB, CCB and IOCCB.

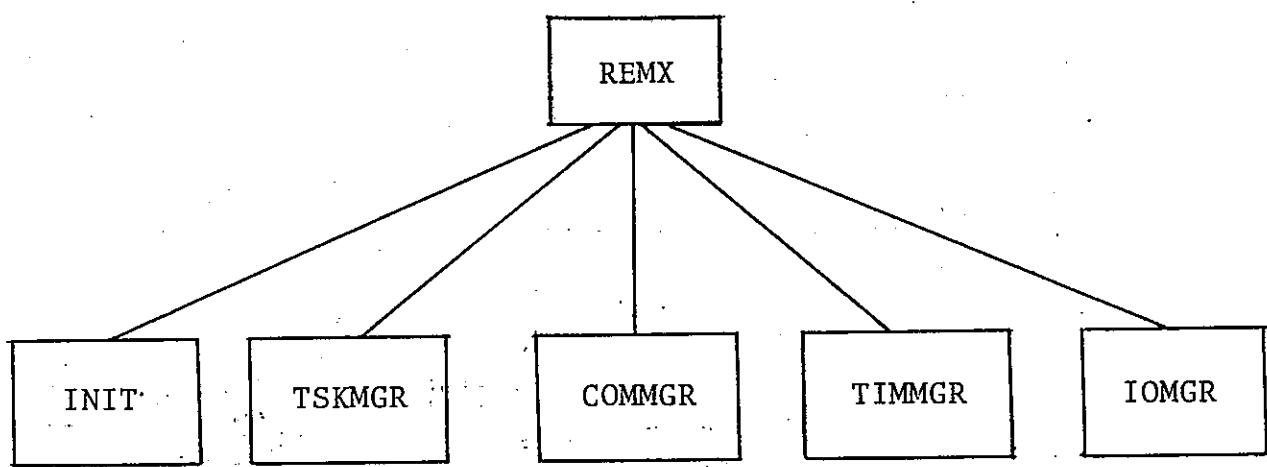


Fig. 4.2

(1) System parameters and interrupt mode initialization

- .load system stack pointer
- .clear all system parameters to zero
- .set all list pointer to -1(null)
- .set interrupt mode = 2 (indirect mode)
- .set up interrupt vector table

(2) TCB initialization

- .get TCB address in TCBD (initial task descriptor)
- .if TCB address ≠ -1 (null)
  - then call BLDTCB to build up this TCB
  - call SCHTSK to insert it into ready task queue list

(3) CCB initialization

- .get CCB address in CCBD (initial channel descriptor)
- .if channel no. ≠ -1 (null)
  - then insert CCB pointer into CCBLST
  - clear all parameters in CCB
  - set all pointers in CCB to -1 (null)

(4) IOCCB initialization

- .get CCB address from IOCCBD (initial I/O channel descriptor)
- .if channel ≠ -1 (null)
  - then insert CCB pointer into IOLST
  - clear all parameters in CCB
  - set all pointers to -1 (null)
  - .get three I/O process routine address and save in IOCCB
    - IO\_PRM (preamble routine)
    - IO\_COM (completion routine)
    - IO\_HDL (handler routine)
  - .set IO\_HDL in interrupt vector table

(5) user's initialization

- .call user's start routine

(6) system start

- .transfer to dispatcher

#### 4.2.2 TSKMGR

The task manager performs the task scheduling, task switching, and the system states entering or exiting.

- (1) TSKMG:
  - . preempt the current task and reschedule again
  - . save all registers in user's stack area
  - . change into system state
  - . if active task is a null task (all tasks are blocked)
    - then transfer to dispatcher
    - . save stack pointer in active TCB
    - . reload system stack pointer
    - . check task status word
    - . if TSW is blocked
      - then transfer to dispatcher
    - . if TSW is ready
      - then call ENQUE to insert the task into ready queue
      - if priority active task priority
        - then ACTPRI = priority
    - . transfer to dispatcher
  - (2) DISPCH (task dispatcher):
    - . for I = MAXPRI (max priority) to 0 (lowest priority)
      - do
      - if the ready task queue is not empty (not -1 null)
        - then
        - ACTPRI = I (active task priority)
        - SYSPRT = 0 (preemption flag = 0)
        - call DEQUE to deque this TCB from ready queue
        - ACTTNO = task number (active task number)
        - ACTTCB = pointer of TCB (active TCB pointer)
        - reload user's stack pointer
        - restore all user's registers
        - transfer control to user (dispatch the CPU to user)
    - end if.

```
.set ACTTNO = -1 (null task)
    ACTPRI = 0 (lowest priority)
    .reload system stack pointer

(3) ENQUE (enqueue a node into a list)
    entry condition : HL : queue tail pointer
                    DE : enqueued node pointer
    .set enqueued node's next pointer to null (-1)
    .(HL)<-DE save enqueued node pointer in queue tail
    .save enqueued node pointer in the last tail node's next pointer
    .if the queue is empty before insertion
        then set the queue head = the enqueued node

(4) DEQUE: deque a node from a list
    entry condition: HL : queue head
    exit condition : DE : the dequeued node
    .DE<-(HL), get the head pointer to DE
    .(HL)<-next node pointer of queue head
    .if the queue is empty after deque
        then set the queue tail to -1 (null)

(5) ENTSYS: entering system state
    functions : all system routines must call this routine to set
                into system state and a return address on stack,
                after returning from system routine, it will
                transfer to RETSYS
    .set SYSTAT = 1 (system state flag)
    .push RETSYS onto stack

(6) RETSYS: returning from system state
    functions : after system routine's process there may be some
                preemption condition occurs, so must be checked here
    .set SYSTAT = 0 (clear system state flag)
    .if SYSPRM = 1 (any preemption occurs)
        then transfer to TSKMG (task manager)
        else return to user's routine
```

- (7) MINTSYS: entering interrupted system state
  - .increase interrupt level count
  - .push DETSYS onto stack
- (8) DETSYS: returning from interrupted system state
  - .decrease interrupt level count
  - .if interrupt level count ≠ 0
    - then return
  - else check system state and preemption flag
    - if in user's state and preemption occurs
      - then transfer to TSKMG

#### 4.2.3 COMMGR

The COMMGR module manages the inter-task communication, task synchronization, message sending/receiving, and event flag mechanism.

- (1) SEND: send a message to a channel
  - .call ENTSYS to enter system state
  - .save event number in MCB\_ECB
  - .get CCB address about the channel number
  - .increasing message number (NOMSG=NOMSG+1)
  - .decreasing task number (NOTSK=NOTSK-1)
  - .if there is a task waiting for message (NOTSK > 0)
    - then if not a send wait request
      - then call SETECW to set event control word
      - call DEQUE to deque the MCB from the list
      - call USCHTSK to insert it in the ready queue
    - else call ENQUE to enqueue the MCB into message list
      - save TCB in MCB's sending TCB
      - if not a send wait request
        - then call SETECW to set event control word
        - else set block status
        - transfer to TSKMG
  - .return



(5) WAITE: wait for some events and proceed to execute after any event occurs

- .get ECW from TCB
- .check event mask with ECW
- .if no event has been occurred
  - then call BLKCHL to wait until any event occurs
  - else calculate the event number that has been occurred
  - return event number in A to user

#### 4.2.4 TIMMGR

The TIMMGR module maintains a system clock, synchronizes the task with time-based event, and handles the timer interrupt.

(1) TIMER: declare an event flag under a time basis or wait until a time slice has elapsed.

- .calculate index to TIMLST according to the task no
- .get previous time slice
- .if previous slice = 0 (no timer request before)
  - then TIMCNT=TIMCNT+1 (TIMLST count)
  - .if a time wait request (TWAIT)
    - then call BLKCHL to wait a specified time delay
    - else call SETECW to set associated event flag

(2) CMRKT: cancel a previously requested timer event

- .calculate index to TIMLST according to the task number
- .get previous time slice
- .if previous time slice ≠ 0 (mark time before)
  - then TIMCNT=TIMCNT-1
  - .if the associated event flag number is not zero
    - then call GETECW to get event mask
    - clear the event flag
- else return

(3) TIMINT: system clock interrupt handle routine

- .save all registers
- .update the system time for
  - second, minute, hour, date, and month
- .if a second has been elapsed
  - then do I=1 to TIMCNT (scan TIMLST)
    - get time slice
    - if time slice ≠ 0
      - then decrease time slice
      - if time slice count down to zero
        - then TIMCNT=TIMCNT-1
        - call EVENTF to check event flag
        - call SCHTSK to reschedule the task
    - end do.
  - .restore all registers
  - .return from interrupt

#### 4.2.5 IOMGR

The IOMGR module accepts the I/O requests from user's, enables the I/O channel, handles the I/O interrupt.

(1) IORQS: request an I/O message through an I/O channel

- .call GETCCB to get IOCCB address
- .save ECB in IOMCB
- .RQSTNO=RQSTNO+1
- .if the I/O channel is not active yet
  - then calculate interrupt vector offset in INTVTB
  - call user's preamble routine
- .call ENQUE to link the new message to message queue
- .save TCB address in IOMCB
- .clear MSGCNT in IOMCB to zero
- .if the ECB < 0 (IOW)
  - then call BLKCHL to wait until I/O completion
  - else call SETECW to set the associated event flag
- .return

(2) CNRIO: cancel I/O request on an I/O channel

- .call GETCCB to get IOCCB address
- .if RQSTNO = 0 (no I/O request has been issued)
  - then return
- .else RQSTNO=RQSTNO-1
  - call DEQUE to remove the current IOMCB
  - mark an I/O aborted flag on ECB
  - if no any more I/O request
    - then call user's I/O completion routine
- .return

(3) INTSV: interrupt save routine

- .save all registers
- .get IOCCB address
- .if RQSTNO ≠ 0 (some I/O request has been issued)
  - then get IOMCB address from IOCCB
  - return MCB address to user interrupt handle routine
  - else return from interrupt

(4) INTEX: interrupt exit routine

- .if I/O completion flag is not set
  - then return from interrupt
- .RQSTNO=RQSTNO-1
- .if RQSTNO = 0
  - then call user's I/O completion routine
  - call DEQUE to deque the current IOMCB
  - check the ECB in the IOMCB
  - .if ECB < 0 (block request)
    - then call SCHTSK to reschedule this task
    - else call EVENTF to check event flag condition
  - .set preemption flag
  - .transfer to TSKMG

## 5. File Transfer Protocol and Communication Task

In this system, the file to be edited is transferred between the host and the FEP. In the following we will define some basic mechanisms about data transfer as well as the set of protocol commands and responses.

Handling files over a communication system induces three problems:

- (1) File identification
- (2) Data representation within files
- (3) Mechanisms for transferring the data

Since file naming schemes are different from one computer manufacturer to another, it is difficult to define a standard convention for different computers. In our system, the file identification scheme of the host computer is used. There are several entries in identifying a file, namely the directory name, the file name, and the file version number.

In general, a source file has a sequential file structure, its record length is variable and is stored line by line. A file may be very large, if we transfer one line at a time, the efficiency will be worse. A page transfer mechanism is introduced in this system. The maximum page length is 2K bytes. Each time a user wants to edit a file, a page is transferred from the host to the FEP. After the user has completed his editing on this page, the page is transferred back to the host, and the user may request the next page to edit or may close the file.

File transfer primitives are exchanged in an alternate command-response mode, they are used to initiate, control and terminate a file transfer.

They are :

- (1) F-OPEN <user ID> <file identification> <mark>  
H-OPEN <user ID> <response code> <status>
- (2) F-LOADPAGE <user ID> <mark>  
H-LOADPAGE <user ID> <response code> <page length>
- (3) F-STORPAGE <user ID> <page length> <mark length>  
H-STORPAGE <user ID> <response code> <status>
- (4) F-CLOSE <user ID> <code>  
H-CLOSE <user ID> <status>

In front of each command there is a letter representing where this command is sent, an "F" for the FEP and an "H" for the host. The user ID represents the user number. The mark is set when any error occurred and a retransmission is made.

When a user wants to edit a file, an F-OPEN command is sent to the host. The host will respond with the file status. Then the user requests to load a page by using F-LOADPAGE command. The host reads a page from the disk, and sends it to the FEP. After editing, the user issues an F-STORPAGE command and sends the whole page to the host. The load and store page are proceeded until the file is completely edited. Finally, a close file command (F-CLOSE) is then sent to the host.

The commands and responses between the host and the FEP shown in Fig.5.1. The dynamics of this file transfer protocol is also illustrated in Fig.5.2 using the Petri Net.

### 5.1 The Data Structure of the Communication Task

The communication task has to receive the command from the edit task and then communicates with the host via a physical link. It cooperates with two channels, one is a software channel that performs the inter-task communication with edit task, the other is a hardware channel that allows messages to be transmitted and received through a serial interface between the host and the FEP.

#### (1) Message format from edit task :

There are four types of messages from the edit task. The detail data structure and function of every entry is described in the following paragraphs:

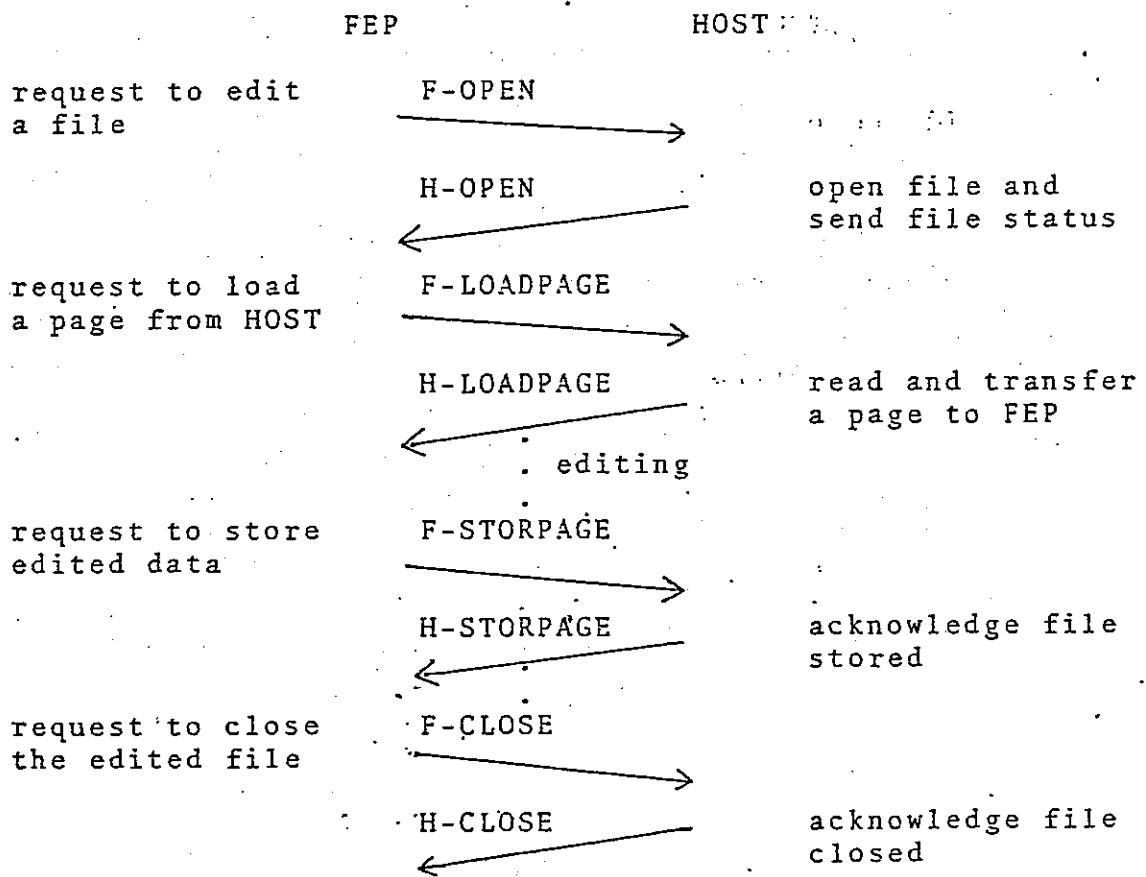


Fig.5.1

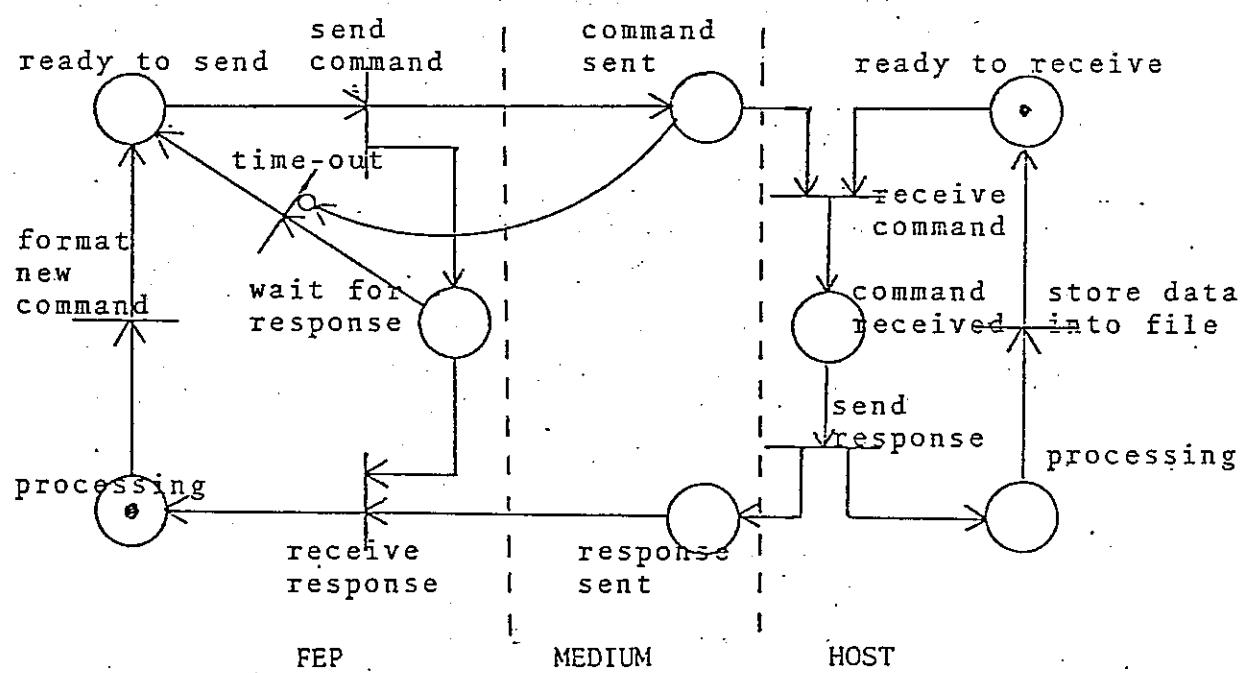
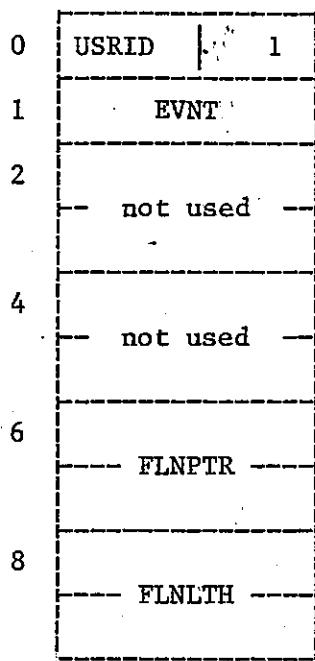


Fig.5.2

(i) OPEN file message:

MCB:



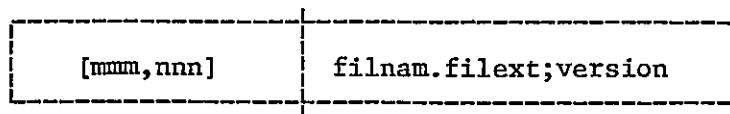
USRID : user ID number (currently 1-4)

EVNT : the associated event flag number

FLNPTR: pointer to the file name

FLNLTH: length in byte of the file name

file name format : two subfields



MCB: (response)

0	USRID	STATUS
1		EVNT

- STATUS : 0: the file to be edited is existent  
1: the file is not found, a new file  
is created  
2: no such directory or protection failure  
9: system error

(ii) LOAD Page message:

MCB:

0	USRID	2
1		EVNT
2		not used
4		not used
6		PAGTOP
8		not used

PAGTOP : the starting address of the page that  
data to be loaded

MCB: (response)

	USRID	STATUS
0		
1		EVNT
2		not used
4		not used
6		PAGTOP
8		PAGLTH

STATUS : 0: a new page is loaded

1: the last page is encountered

9: system error

PAGLTH : the length in byte of the loaded page

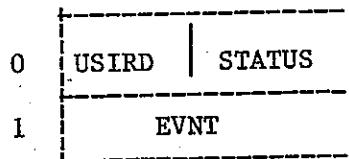
(iii) STORE PAGE message :

MCB:

0	USRID	3
1		EVNT
2		not used
4		not used
6		PAGTOP
8		PAGLTH
10		PAGLIN

PAGTOP : starting address of the page to be stored  
PAGLTH : length in byte of this page  
PAGLIN : number of lines contained in this page

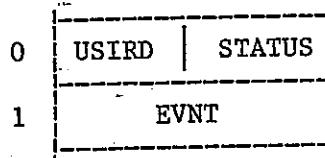
MCB: (response)



STATUS : 0: no error during the store  
1: some error occurred  
9: system error

(iv) CLOSE FILE message :

MCB:



STATUS : 0: file is closed successfully  
9: error occurs

(2) format of commands to the host :

Since the messages sent to the host are through a RS232 interface, all the messages are in a character-oriented string format. The data transferred are in ASCII code, no binary data will be transferred. There are also four types of commands :

(i) OPEN FILE command :

offset (in character)

1 USRID  
2 1  
3-6 FLNLTH  
7-15 UIC  
16-n FLN  
n+1 <CR>  
(n<32)

response : 1 USRID  
2 STATUS  
3 <CR>

(ii) LOAD PAGE command :

command : 1 USRID  
2 '2'  
3 <CR>

response : 1 USRID  
2 STATUS  
3-6 FLNLTH (in bytes)  
7 <CR>

After the FEP has received the status and page length without any error, a 'start to send' command will be sent to the host, then the host will send the whole page to the FEP.

(iii) STORE PAGE command :

command : 1 USRID  
          2 '3'  
      3-6 PAGLIN  
      7 <CR>

The data of this page will be stored to the host in a hand-shaking mode, a line is transferred and wait for ACK, then next.

(iv) CLOSE FILE command :

command : 1 USRID  
          2 '4'  
          3 <CR>

response: 1 USRID  
          2 STATUS  
          3 <CR>

## 5.2 The Control Flow of the Communication Task

The software structure of the communication task is described in Fig.5.3. Only three levels of modules is designed in this task. The first level, The main program, receives commands from edit task, determine what type of command it is and then transfer to the next elvel to process these commands. The second level, the command process routine, sets up format of each command, talks with the host according to the file transfer protocol. The third level, the miscellaneous routines, handles the link level protocol, error recovery, binary and ASCII conversion, and message head packing/unpacking.

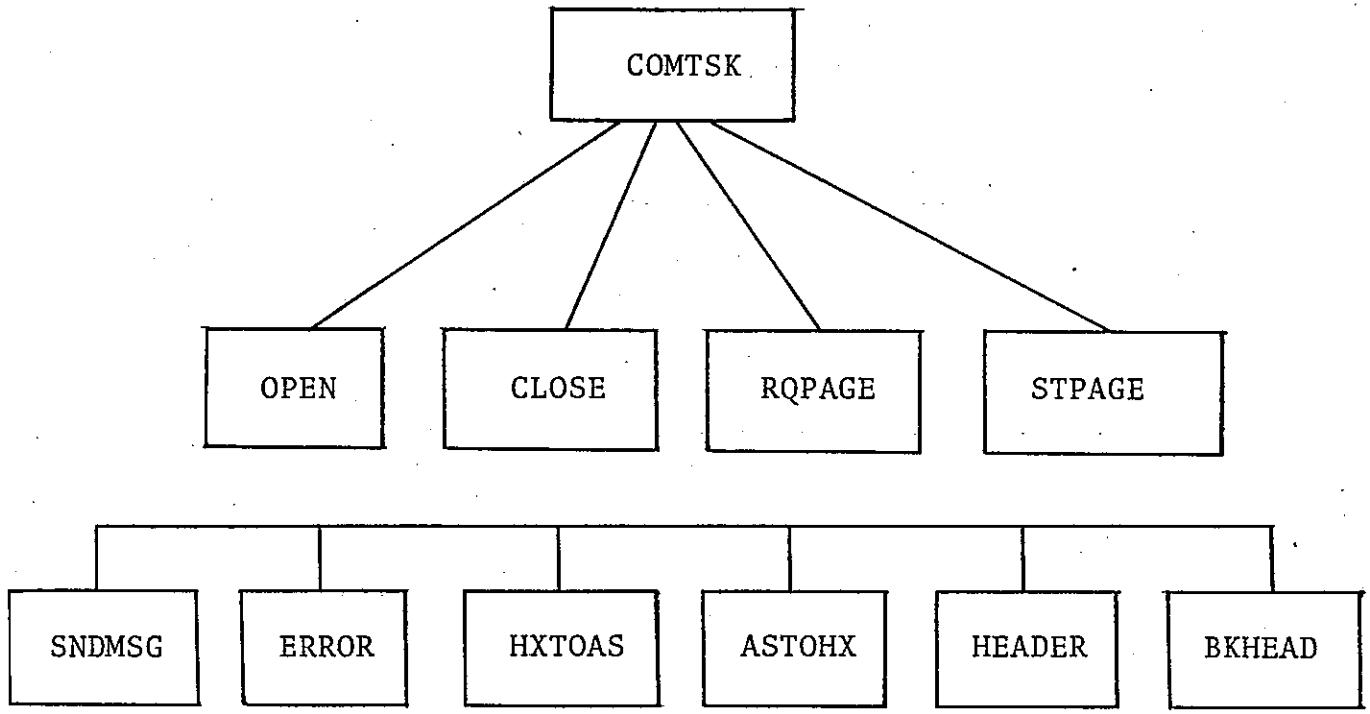


Fig.5.3

(1) COMTSK: main program of communication task

```
.receive and wait(MCB)      ;wait a message from edit task
.FUNC := MCB(1) and OF      ;get function code
.do case (FUNC)            ;check function type
    /1/ OPEN(MCB)          ;1- open file command
    /2/ RQPAGE(MCB)        ;2- request to load a page command
    /3/ STPAGE(MCB)        ;3- store a page command
    /4/ CLOSE(MCB)         ;4- close a file command
    else ERROR              ;others, error
.end
end COMTSK.
```

(2) OPEN(MCB): open file command process

```
.call HEADER to pack the message header
.MSGLTH := MCB(LTH)          ;get the message length
.call HXTOAS(MSGLTH)        ;convert the length to ASCII
.move file name to MSGCOM to set up message
.call SNDMSG(MSGCOM)        ;send it to the host
.call BKHEAD(MSGCOM)        ;unpacking the message head
.send(MCB)                  ;send it back to edit task
end OPEN.
```

(3) CLOSE(MCB): close file command process routine

```
.call HEADER(MCB)           ;packing the message head
.call SNDMSG(MSGCOM)        ;send it to the host
.call BKHEAD(MSGCOM)        ;unpacking the message head
.send(MCB)                  ;send it back to edit task
end close
```

(4) RQPAGE(MCB): load a page command process routine

```
.call HEADER(MCB)          ;packing the message head
.call SNDMSG(MSGCOM)      ;send the message
.LTHPTR := RCVMSG+2        ;get the page length pointer
.call ASTOHX(LTHPTR,PAGLTH) ;convert the length to binary
.RCVMCB(PTR) := MCB(PTR)   ;page start address pointer
.RCVMCB(LTH) := PAGLTH    ;page length
.input(RCVMCB,EVN1)        ;request to load page and with event 1
.COMMCB(PTR) := ACKMSG    ;set up an ACK message to host
.COMMCB(LTH) := ACKLTH    ;
.output(COMMCB)            ;set an ACK to host
.mrkt(10, EVN2)            ;initiate a timer with event 2
.waite(EVN1+EVN2)          ;wait until any event occurred
.if event =EVN1
    then call BKHEAD(MSGCOM)
    MCB(LTH) := PAGLTH
    send(MCB)           ;send it back to edit task
    else call ERROR      ;time out
end RQPAGE.
```

(5) STPAGE(MCB): store page command process routine

```
.call HEADER(MCB)          ;packing the message head
.NOLINE := MCB(LTH+2)       ;get no. of line in the page
.call HXTOAS(NOLINE)        ;convert line no. to ASCII
.call SNDMSG(MSGCOM)        ;send it to host
.input (RCBMCB)             ;receive the response from host
.do I := 1 to NOLINE
    MSGPTR := next line in text
    MSGLTH := length of this line
    COMMcb(PTR) := MSGPTR
    COMMcb(LTH) := MSGLTH
    call SNDMSG(MSGCOM)
end
```

```
.COMMCB(PTR) := ACKMSG      ;set up an ACK message
.COMMCB(LTH) := ACKLTH      ;
.call SNDMSG(MSGCOM)        ;send the ACK to host
.call BKHEAD(MSGCOM)        ;unpacking the message head
.send (MCB)                 ;send it back to edit task
end STPAGE.
```

(6) SNDMSG: send a message to host and check with a timer

```
.do I := 1 to RTXCNT      ;retransmit if errors
    output and wait(COMMCB)
    input(RCVMCB, EVN1)    ;wait for ACK with event 1
    markt(5, EVN2)         ;initiate timer with event 2
    wait(EVN1+EVN2)        ;check for any event
    if event = EVN1
        then return
    end
end SNDMSG.
```

## 6. RSX-11/M Compatible Editor

In order to make the users have illusion that they are interacting with the host computer directly, the editor utility of the FEP should be compatible with the editor of the host computer. In other words, the FEP is transparent to the users.

In this system, the host is a PDP-11/70, with the RSX-11/M operating system. The editor commands are chosen from the command set of the RSX-11/M editor utility. All functions are compatible with the editor of the RSX-11/M system.

### 6.1 Reentrant Coding in a Microcomputer System

The editor program in the FEP has been coded in a reentrant form and can be shared by more than one user.

A reentrant code means that the program is independent of the impure data. If we want to have a program sharable, we must remove the impure data area from the program body, but the program can also access the impure data through some methods.

Among large computers, mini- or mainframe-computers, there are some hardware mechanisms to facilitate program sharing. For a demanded-page system, the program and the impure data can be put in different pages. For a segmented system, we can use segment registers to point to the program and the impure data area. What the designer has to do is just to declare where the program section is and where the data section is. But there is no such hardware mechanism in microcomputers, so new techniques must be developed.

We may add some registers to microcomputer as base registers for separating data and program. But this is not feasible to us, the cost will increase and the design period will take a longer time. Fortunately, almost every microprocessor has some index registers, we can use them to point to the impure data area. What we have to do is to put the impure

data area base into the index register of each user's TCB during the system initialization stage. Since each user is associated with a task, and a task has its own stack and register area(in its TCB), the program may just use registers and stack to access different users' data. This makes our program "pure" and sharable.

## 6.2 The Data Structure of the Impure Data Area

Since the edit task is reentrant, all the data used in the edit task must be separable between different tasks. We collect all the impure data into an area and this area is pointed by an index register, the edit task can access each user's data by this register. Associated with each user a 74 bytes data area is required to keep the data of editor utility. Its format and usage are described in this section.

Name	Offset	Length	Usage
CTCCTL	0	1	CTC port number to initiate terminal baud
URTCTL	1	1	USART port number to terminal I/O
PAGHED	2	2	edited page head pointer
PAGEND	4	2	edited page last address pointer
LINBUF	6	2	input line buffer pointer
STATU1	8	1	status of edit command process
STATU2	9	1	status of edit command process
MCBARE	10	12	MCB area for communication with COMTSK
OPNFLG	22	1	file opened flag
NEWFLG	23	1	the edited file is a new file flag
EOF	24	1	end of file flag
LTHFLN	25	1	file name length
PAGTOP	26	2	page top pointer
PAGBOT	28	2	page bottom pointer
LNADD	30	2	line pointer in page
STRADD	32	2	string pointer in command line
NXSTAD	34	2	next token address

Name	Offset	Length	Usage
CMNORG	36	2	command number register
CHNGBC	38	2	length to page bottom during change
UIC	40	9	UIC area
FLN	49	15	file name area
BUFF1	64	2	buffer pointer
TABLTH	66	1	<TAB> field count
others	67	7	reserved for future expansion

### 6.3 The Control Flow of the Edit Task

The software structure of the edit task is shown in Fig.6.1. The main program is EDITCM, it receives an edit command from user, and determines what command it is, then transfers to that command process routine. After the command has been processed the control is then returned to EDITCM to wait for another command until an exit command is input.

- (1) GETUIC: get user's identification code
  - .clear UIC area to [000,000]
  - .call PRTSTR to print the UIC message
  - .call RDLIN to read the user's UIC
  - .call NXTOKN to check the token length
  - .call CHKUIC to check the first UIC
  - .call NXTSTR to move to next token
  - .call NXTOKN to check the token length
  - .call CHKUIC to check the second UIC
  
- (2) GETFLN: get the user's file name
  - .clear FLN area to blank
  - .call PRTSTR to print file name message
  - .call RDLIN to read the user's file name
  - .call NXTOKN to check the file name length
  - .move the file name to the FLN impure area

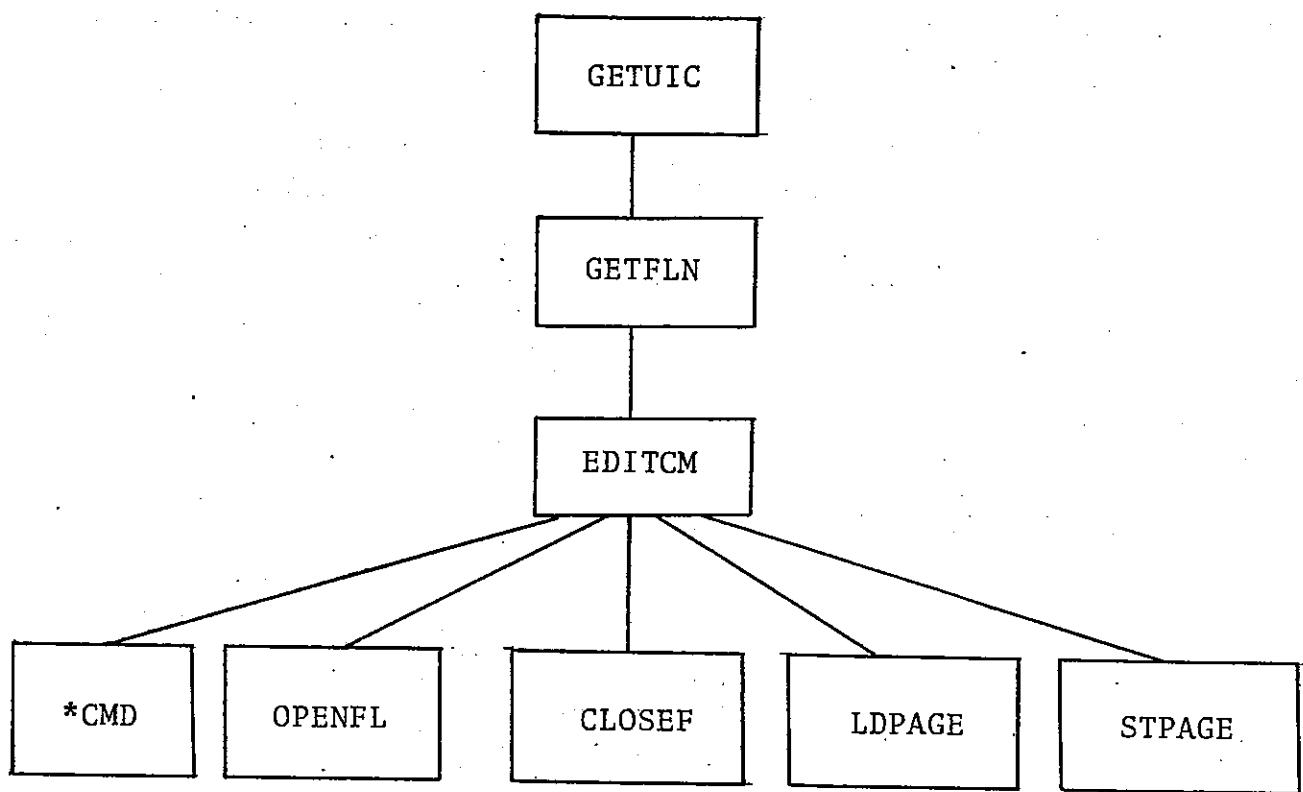


Fig.6.1

(3) OPENFL: send an open file command to COMTSK

- .set up the MCB
- .call SEND(REMX system call) to send it to COMTSK
- .call RECVW(remx system call) to receive the response
- .check the status of the file (new or old)

(4) CLOSEF: send a close file command to COMTSK

- .set up the MCB
- .call SEND to send it to COMTSK
- .call RECVW to receive its response
- .check error status

(5) LDPAGE: request to load a page from COMTSK

- .set up the MCB
- .call SEND to send it to COMTSK
- .call RECVW to receive its response
- .if no error occurs
  - then set the end-of-page delimiters
  - set the page bottom address
  - if the page is the last page
    - then set EOF flag
  - else close the file

(6) STPAGE: store a page to host through COMTSK

- .call CRLNNO to calculate line number in the page
- .set up the MCB
- .call SEND to send it to COMTSK
- .call RECVW to receive its response
- .check error status

(7) EDITCM: edit command analyzer

- .call PRTSTR to print prompt message
- .call RDLIN to read a command line
- .if just a <CR> key (null line)
  - then transfer to NCMD with no. 1
- .if just a <ESC> key (Previous line)
  - then transfer to NCMD with no. -1
- .search the command type list

.if command type is found  
    then calculate index to COMLST  
        get command process routine address  
        transfer to that command process routine  
    else print command error message

(8) ACMD: append a string to the current line  
    .if 'AP' is specified  
        then set print flag  
    .skip to the next token (the appended string)  
    .call CHKMSZ to check memory size  
    .call NXLINE to move pointer of next line  
    .call DELSTR to delete <CR> in current line  
    .call INSERT to insert the string after the current line  
    .if print flag = 1  
        then call PRTCUR to print this line

(9) BCMD: BOB(begin of block) or BOT(bottom of page)  
    .check 'BOB' or 'BOT'  
    .if a 'BOB' command  
        then transfer to TCMD  
    .move current line pointer to page bottom  
    .call PRVLIN to move back to last line  
    .call PRTCUR to print the last line

(10) CCMD: replace a string by a new string  
    .call CHLNST to check current line status  
    .call NXNBLK to point to the old string to be replaced  
    .call CHKMSZ to check memory size  
    .call SRHSTR to search the old string  
    .if the string is found  
        then call DELSTR to delete the string  
        call INSERT to insert the new string  
        call CURRLIN to point to the line head  
        call PRTCUR to print the current line  
    else call PRTLIN to print no change message

(11) DCMD: delete lines

- .if 'DP' is specified
  - then set print flag
- .call CHKNEG to check for previous lines deleting
- .call CLCMNO to get no. of lines to be deleted
- .call CHLNST to check current line status
- .if end of page
  - then call PRTSTR to print 'EOB' message
- .if CMNNO ≠ 0
  - then call DELLN to delete one line
  - call DECCMN to decrease CMNNO

(12) ECMD: exit from edit utility

- .call STPAGE to store the current page
- .call CLOSEF to close the file
- .call PRTLIN to print exit message
- .transfer to GETUIC initialization again

(13) ICMD: insert one line or many lines of text

- .check insert one line or many lines
- .if input many lines of text
  - then do while input is not a null line (just a CR)
    - call CHKMSZ to check memory size
    - call NXLINE to move to next line
    - call DELSTR to get length to bottom
    - call INSERT to insert this line
  - else end of insert
    - transfer to EDITCM
- .else call CHKMSZ to check memory size
  - call NXLINE to move to next line
  - call DELSTR to get length to bottom
  - call INSERT to insert this line

- (14) LCMD: locate a string from the following lines
- .call NXLINE to move to the next line
  - .call SRHSTR to search the string to be located
  - .if the string is found
    - then call CURRLN to point to the line head
    - call PRTCUR to print the current line
    - else call PRVLIN to point to the last line in page
    - call PRTLIN to print not found message
- (15) NCMD: move line pointer forward or backward
- .if 'NP' is specified
    - then set print flag
  - .call CHKNEG to check for backward moving
  - .call CLCMNO to get no. of lines to be moved
  - .if CMNNO ≠ 0
    - then call NXLINE to move to next line
    - call DECCMN to decrease CMNNO
- (16) PCMD: print lines
- .call CLCMNO to get no. of lines to be printed
  - .if CMNNO ≠ 0
    - then call CHLNST to check line status
    - call PRTCUR to print current line
    - call DECCMN to decrease CMNNO
- (17) RCMD: replace the current line by a new line
- .call CHLNST to check the current line status
  - .call NXLINE to move to next line
  - .call DELSTR to delete the current line
  - .call PRVLIN to move to previous line
  - .call INSERT to insert the new line
- (18) TCMD: top of page('T') or top of file ('TOF')
- .if 'TOF' is specified
    - then call STPAGE to store current page
    - call CLOSEF to close the file
    - transfer to OPENFL to open it again
  - else set current line pointer to page top

## 7. Conclusion

In this report, we have presented a system that utilizes a microcomputer in communication and multiuser applications. In summary, this system has the following features:

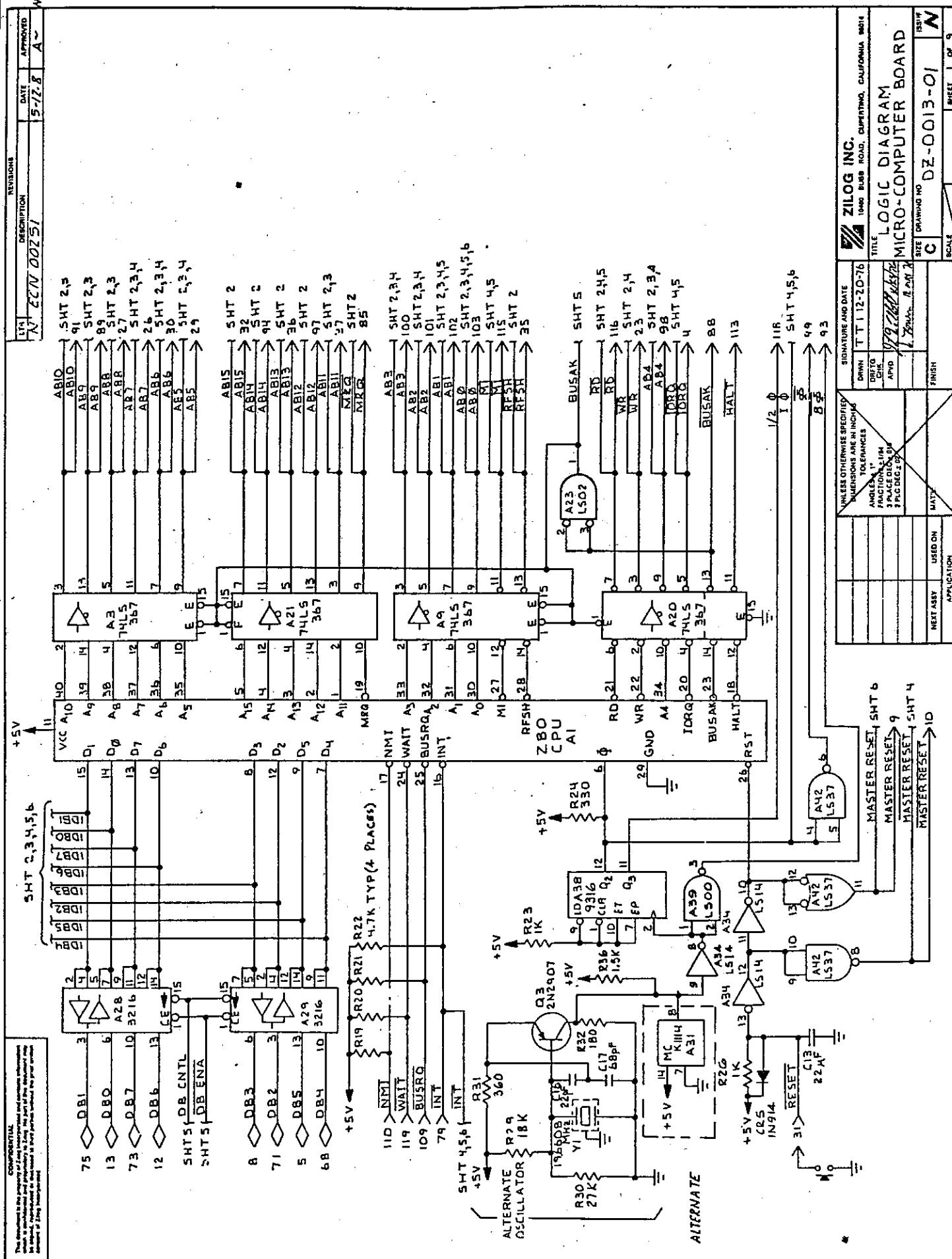
- (1) A multitasking scheme is introduced into the microcomputer system through an executive.
- (2) A reentrant coding technique allows different users to share the same program.
- (3) A file transfer protocol has been designed to facilitate reliable and efficient communication between the host and the FEP.

The potential applications of the FEP seems fruitful and promising. With the multitasking executive software, a microcomputer-based multiuser application system, such as data entry, query processing,... etc., can be designed and implemented without much difficulty. By adding one more communication task and defining necessary protocols, the FEP can become a communication processor for the distributed processing system.

References:

- (1) Marvin V. Zelkowitz and Alan C. Shaw, "Principles of Software Engineering and Design",
- (2) R.C. Holt, "Structured Concurrent Programming with Operating System Applications", Addison Wesley, 1978.
- (3) "RMX-80 User's Guide", Intel Corp.
- (4) "REX-80 Primer", System and Software Corp.
- (5) "RSX-11/M Utility Manual", Digital Equipment Corp.
- (6) D. W. Davies, "Computer Networks and Their Protocols"
- (7) Michel Gien, "A File Transfer Protocol", Computer Network, Fib. 1978.
- (8) T. Agerwala, "Putting Petri Net to Work", Computer, Dec. 1979.

**APPENDIX**



This application is filed properly and contains information which is clear, definite, and concise. The drawings are clearly made and clearly show the invention. The specification is complete in all respects and the claims are clear and distinct.

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**PC. CONFIGURATION**

ROM (0000H)	J3-3/J3-6/J3-15/J3-13
RAM (0000H)	J3-13/J3-11/J3-4/J3-9

\* A1/2 - A19 ARE RAMS . SEE P/L

**ZILOG INC.**  
1040 BULL ROAD, CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA 95014  
TITLE: LOGIC DIAGRAM  
MICRO-COMPUTER BOARD

**SHEET 8 OF 9**

**SEE JUMPER TABLE ON SHEET 9**

**MEM SEL(RAM OUT) → 21**  
**MEM SEL (RAM IN) ← 1b**

**ROM SELECTION → B3**

**RAM SEL → SHT 5**

**SWITCHES**

SWITCH NO	D2 - 0013 - 0 /
SCALE	Sheet 2 of 9

**NOTES**

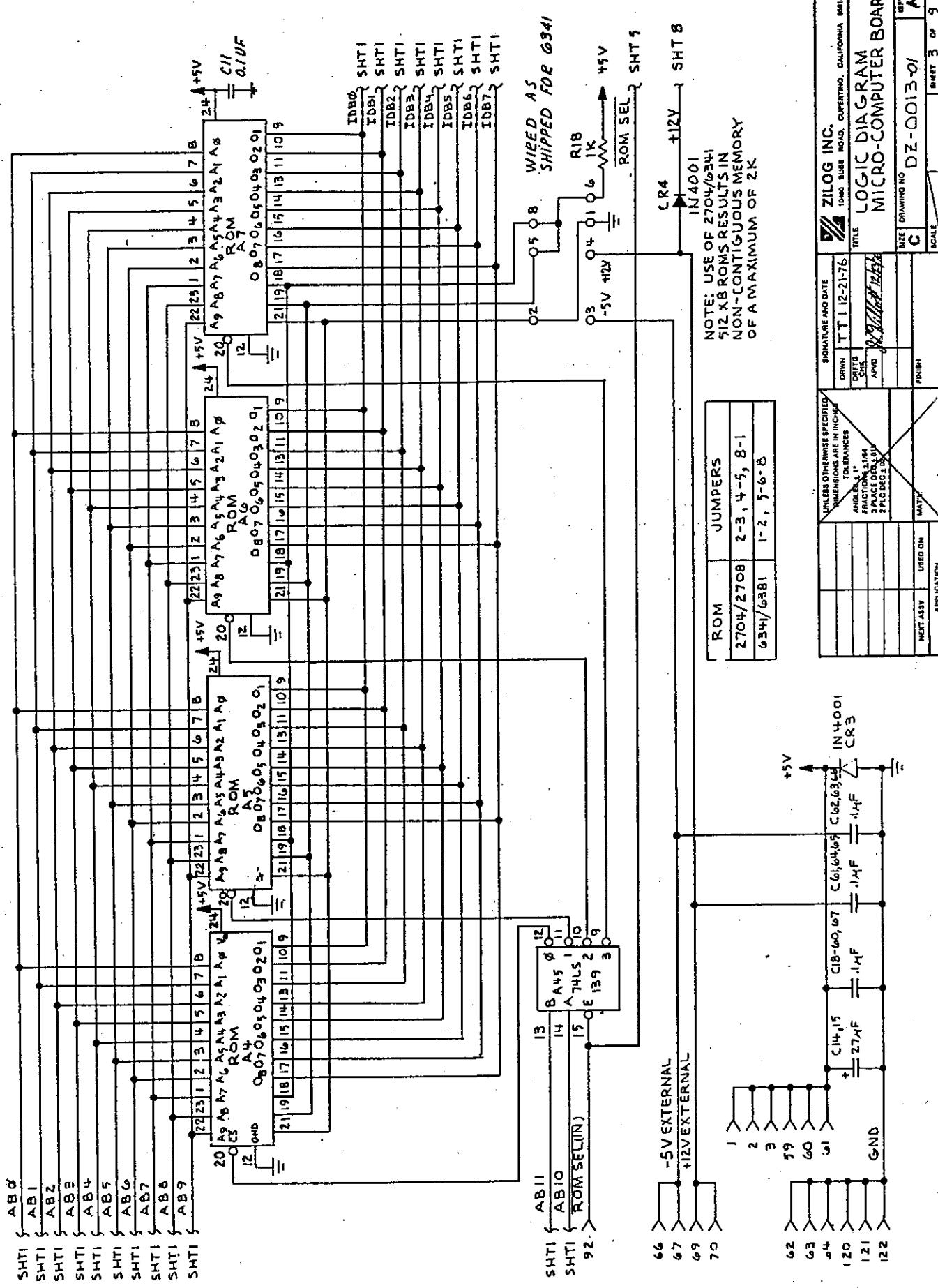
- UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES.
- TOLERANCES: ANGLES, 1°; FRACTIONAL, 1/16; 3 PLACES; DECIMAL, 1/1000.
- APPLICABILITY: APPLICABLE
- NEXT EASY: USED ON
- FINISH: MATE
- APPLICATION:

**REVISIONS**

\* A12-A19 ARE RAMS . SEE P/L

REVISIONS	DATE	APPROVED
LIA	DESCRIPTION	

COMPONENTS  
The document lists the properties of items manufactured and supplied under contract by other companies. It is the responsibility of the user to determine the suitability of these components for the intended application.



LIN	DESCRIPTION	REVISION	DATE	APPROVED
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REV A

REV B

REV C

REV D

REV E

REV F

REV G

REV H

REV I

REV J

REV K

REV L

REV M

REV N

REV O

REV P

REV Q

REV R

REV S

REV T

REV U

REV V

REV W

REV X

REV Y

REV Z

REV AA

REV BB

REV CC

REV DD

REV EE

REV FF

REV GG

REV HH

REV II

REV JJ

REV KK

REV LL

REV MM

REV NN

REV OO

REV PP

REV QQ

REV RR

REV SS

REV TT

REV UU

REV VV

REV WW

REV XX

REV YY

REV ZZ

REV AA

REV BB

REV CC

REV DD

REV EE

REV FF

REV GG

REV HH

REV II

REV JJ

REV KK

REV LL

REV MM

REV NN

REV OO

REV PP

REV QQ

REV RR

REV SS

REV TT

REV UU

REV VV

REV WW

REV XX

REV YY

REV ZZ

REV AA

REV BB

REV CC

REV DD

REV EE

REV FF

REV GG

REV HH

REV II

REV JJ

REV KK

REV LL

REV MM

REV NN

REV OO

REV PP

REV QQ

REV RR

REV SS

REV TT

REV UU

REV VV

REV WW

REV XX

REV YY

REV ZZ

REV AA

REV BB

REV CC

REV DD

REV EE

REV FF

REV GG

REV HH

REV II

REV JJ

REV KK

REV LL

REV MM

REV NN

REV OO

REV PP

REV QQ

REV RR

REV SS

REV TT

REV UU

REV VV

REV WW

REV XX

REV YY

REV ZZ

REV AA

REV BB

REV CC

REV DD

REV EE

REV FF

REV GG

REV HH

REV II

REV JJ

REV KK

REV LL

REV MM

REV NN

REV OO

REV PP

REV QQ

REV RR

REV SS

REV TT

REV UU

REV VV

REV WW

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REV YY

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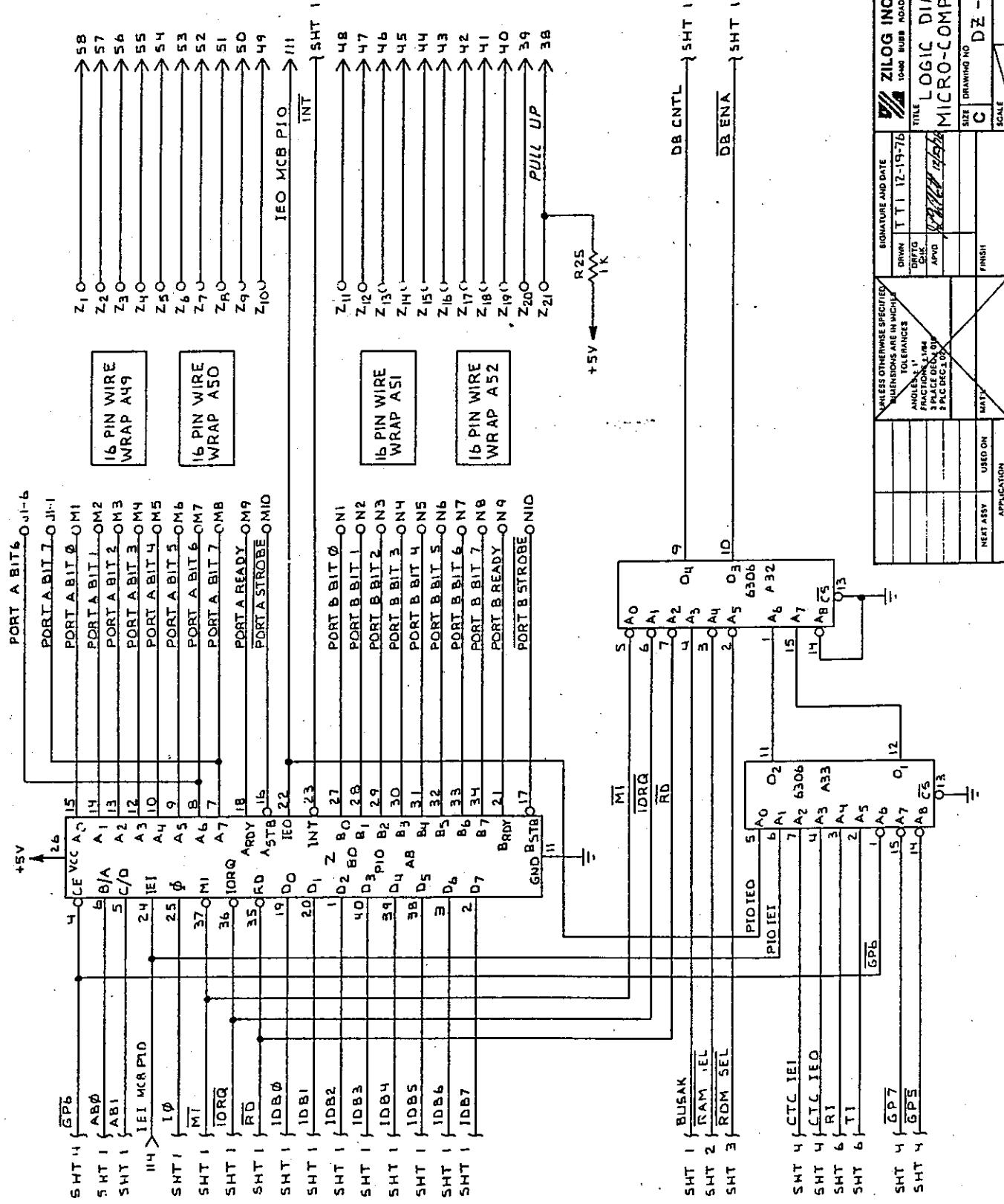
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REV YY

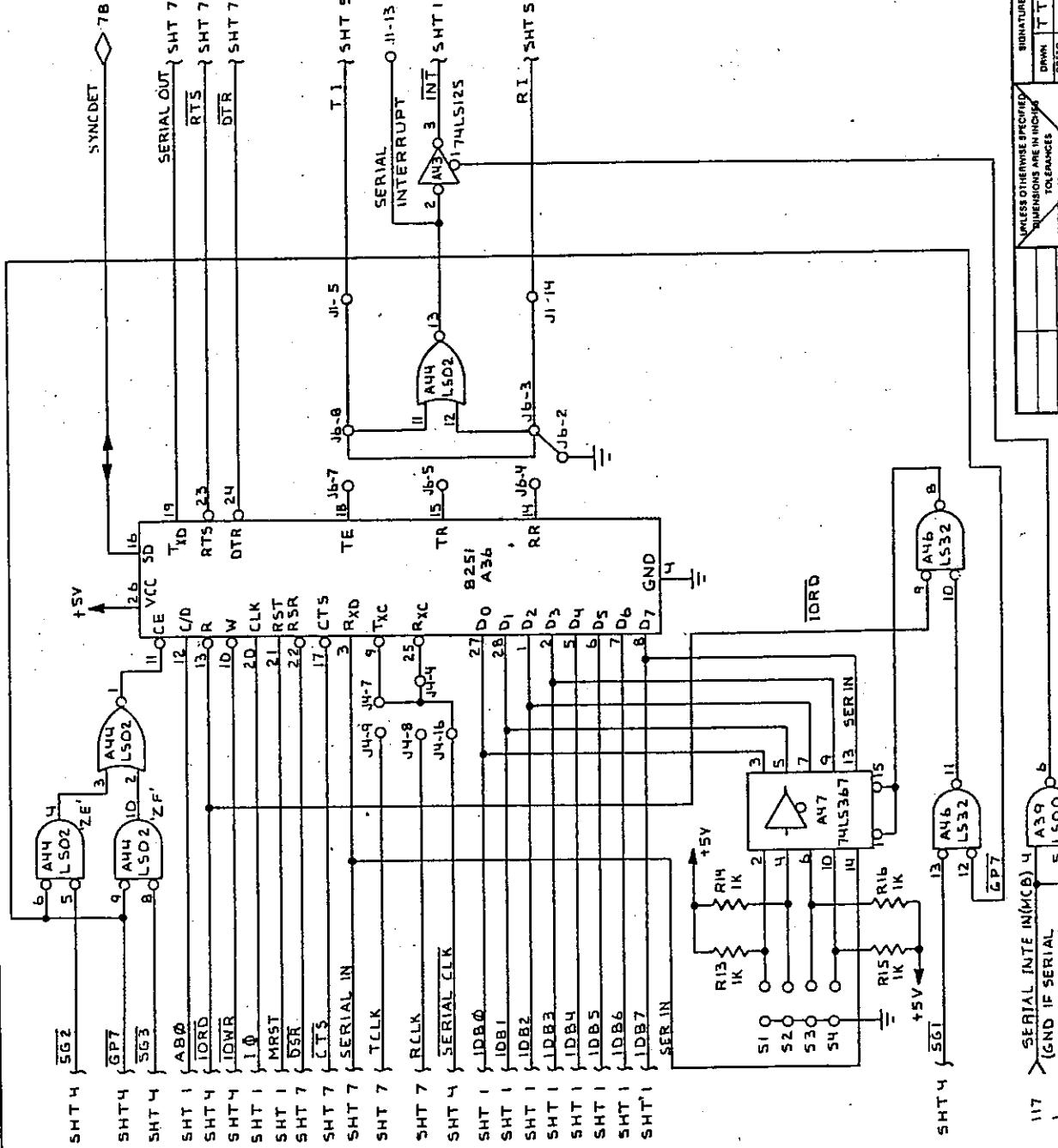
REV ZZ

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REVISIONS	DESCRIPTION	DATE	APPROVED



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BAUD RATE	$f_s$	JUMPERS					N
		15X RATE	S1	S2	S3	S4	
50	800Hz	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	9b X16
75	127KHz	OFF	ON	ON	ON	ON	b4 X16
110	1.745KHz	ON	OFF	ON	ON	ON	4c X16
134.5	2.133 KHz	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	ON	3b X16
150	2.4KHz	ON	DN	OFF	ON	ON	32X16
200	3.2KHz	OFF	ON	OFF	ON	ON	24X16
300	4.8KHz	ON	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	16X16
600	9.6KHz	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	8 X16
1.200	19.2KHz	ON	DN	ON	OFF	ON	4X16
2.400	38.4KHz	OFF	DN	ON	OFF	ON	2X16
4.800	76.8 KHz	ON	OFF	ON	OFF	ON	1X16
9.600	153.6KHz	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF	ON	DFE
19.200	307.2KHz	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	2 DF
38.400	614.4KHz	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	ON	1 DF
AUTO *	AUTO	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	AUTO *

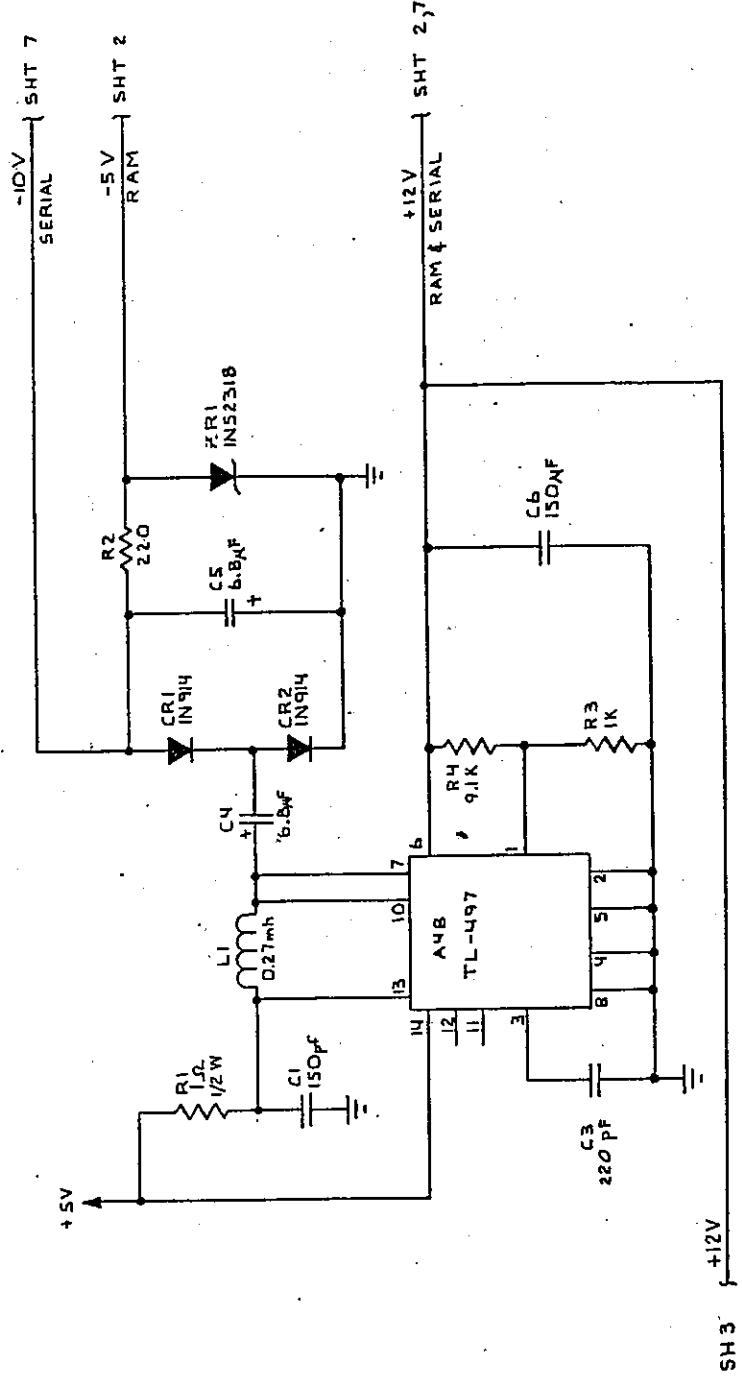
\*# JUMPER 1B TO 1B FOR HIGH SPEED  
SERIAL.  
# SPECIAL SOFTWARE SUPPORT REQUIRED

UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES		SIGNATURE AND DATE	ZILOG INC.	
		DRWNS	1000 BUREAU ROAD, CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA 95014	
TOLERANCES		DATE	TITLE	
ANGLES: 1° FRACTIONS: 1/16 3 PLACE DEC. 1/1000 2 PLAC DEC. 1/100		APR 17 1974	LOGIC DIAGRAM MICRO-COMPUTER BOARD	
		FINISH	DRAWING NO. DZ-0013-01	
		MATERIAL	SCALE	INCHES
NEWT ASSY	USED ON			6 OR 9
APPROVAL				



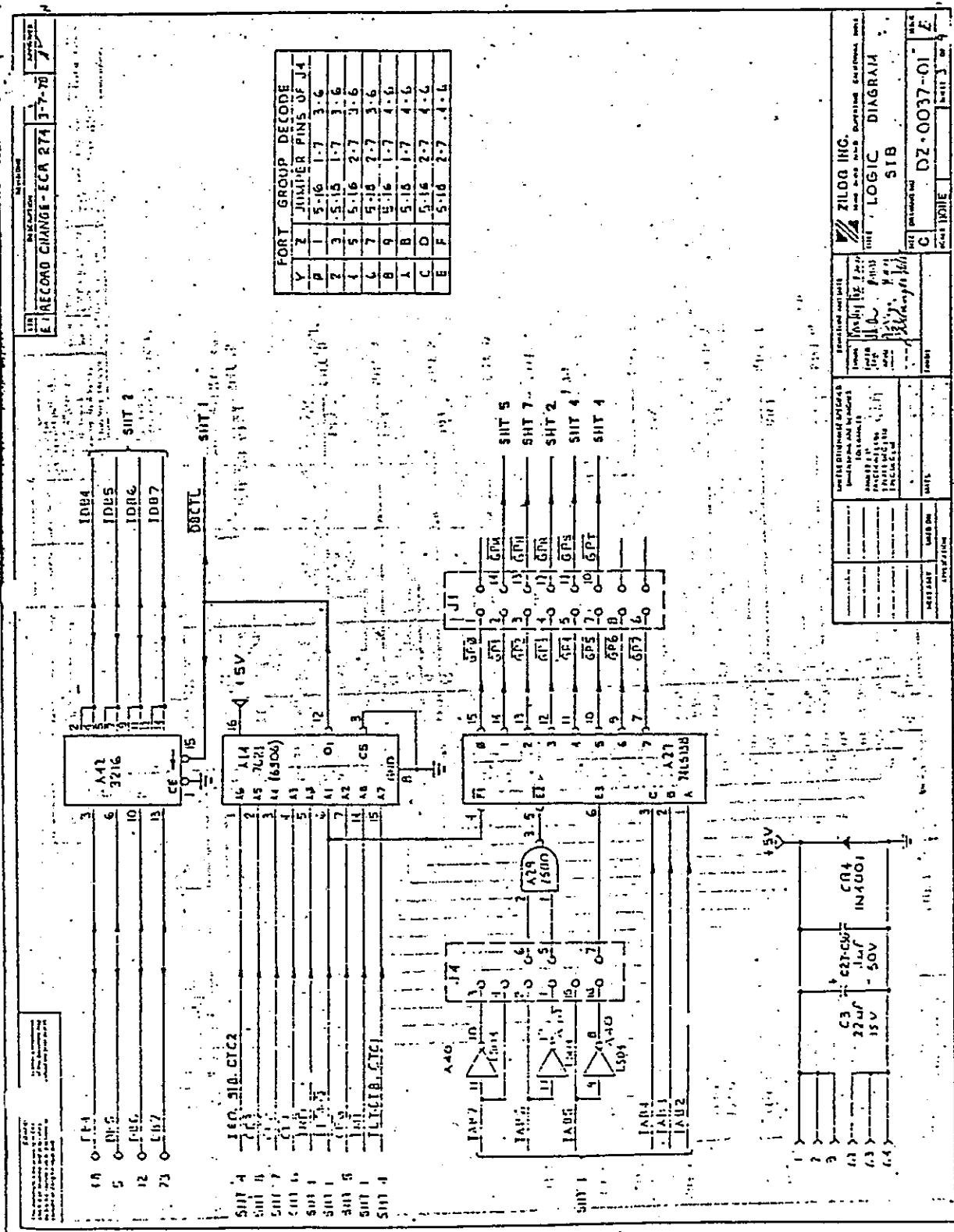
REVISIONS	
DATE	
APPROVED	

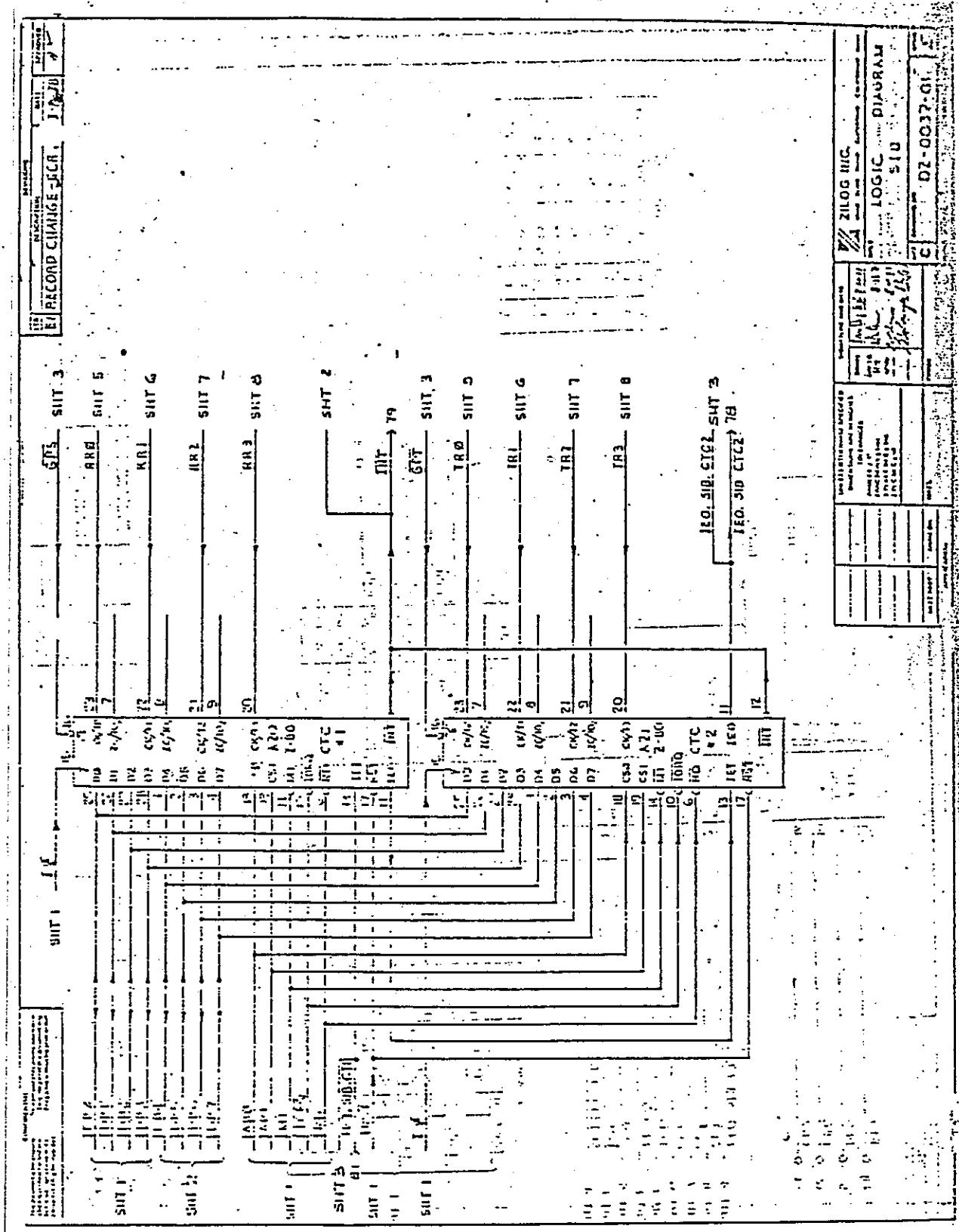
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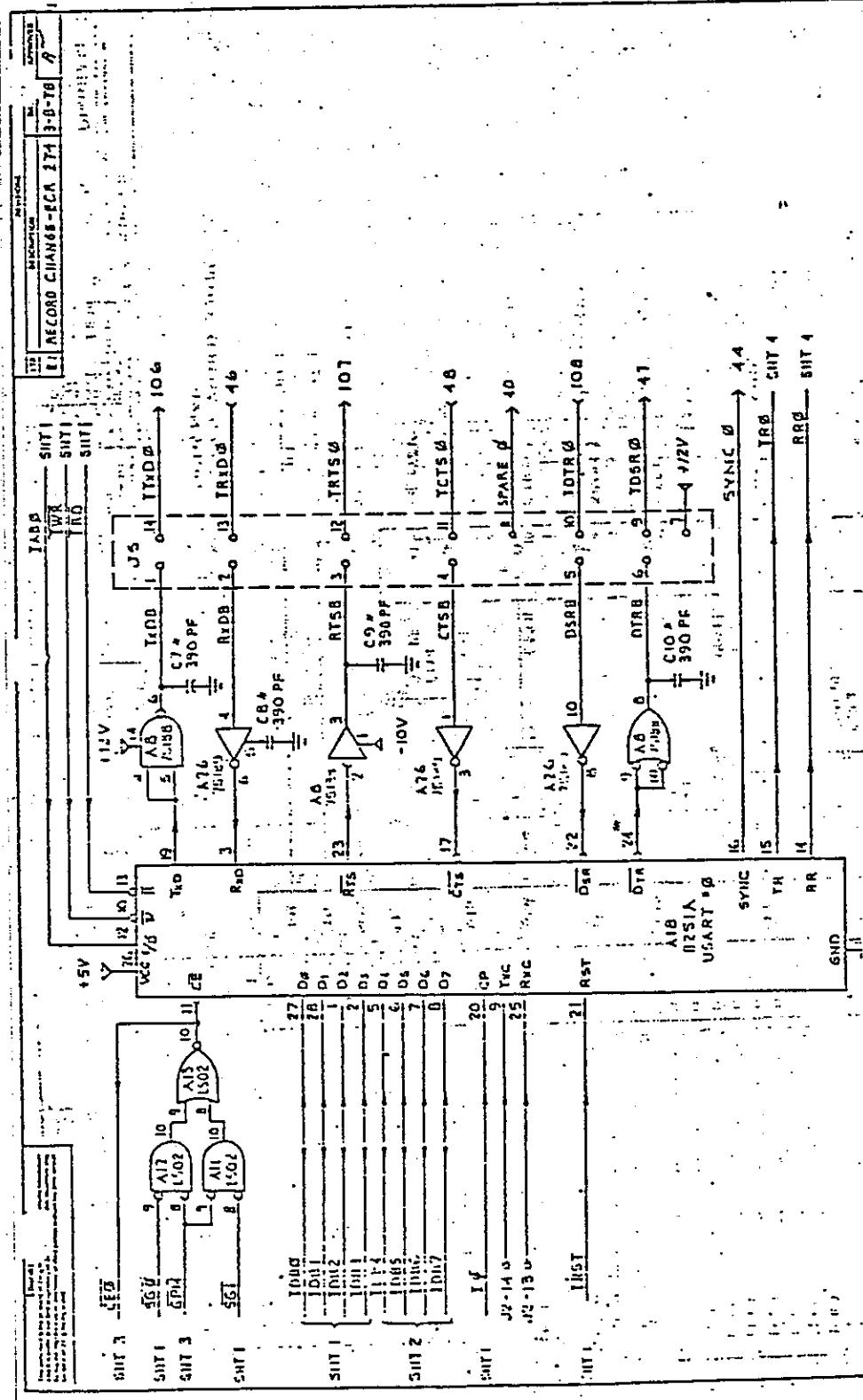


NOT USED	LAST USED
C1, C12, C25	AS2, CG1, CR3, J6, LI, MID, N10, Q3, R32, Z21, ZR2

PRINTS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED		SIGNATURE AND DATE	ZILOG INC.
DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES		DDW/T/T 1 12-20-76	1100 BARK RD., DEPTMNT. OF CALIFORNIA, USA
TOLERANCES		DRFTG CKD APVD	TITLE
ANGLES: 1°		<i>[Handwritten signatures]</i>	LOGIC DIAGRAM
FRACTIONAL: 1/16		<i>[Handwritten signatures]</i>	MICRO-COMPUTER BOARD
PLACES: 0.000		<i>[Handwritten signatures]</i>	SIZE DRAWING NO.
ZINC DIE: 1.0		<i>[Handwritten signatures]</i>	C DZ-0013-01
NET ASY	USED ON	DATE:	SCALE:
APPLICATION:			







THE CHAMBERS OF TRADE.

