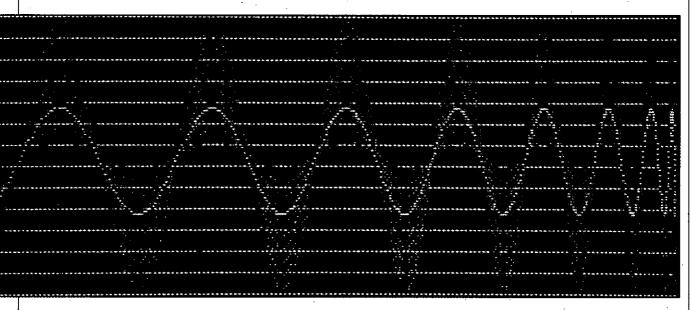
# Plotting Data

An assembly language program for screen display of digitized waveforms

PETER G. AITKEN



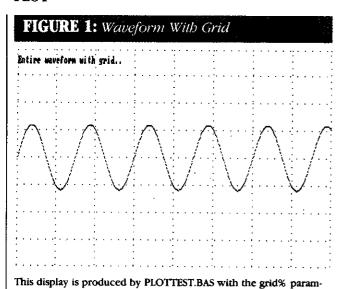
he digital computer has become a common sight in scientific and engineering laboratories. The IBM PC is a good candidate for laboratory use (see "Passing the Lab Test," Peter G. Aitken, *PC Tech Journal*, January 1984, p. 74). One common application is to interface a PC to an analog-to-digital converter (ADC) so that electrical signals can be digitized and stored in the computer's memory.

The result of such a process is usually a data array in which successive array elements contain digital numbers representing the measured signal voltage at successive time intervals. This data can be stored on disk, processed mathematically, or manipulated in other esoteric ways, such as to provide a graphic representation in which the digitized data are converted back to some sort of analog form closely resembling the original waveform. One way to do this is to use the computer monitor somewhat like an oscilloscope, where

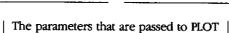
each datum is displayed as a point on the screen with the time dimension represented horizontally and the voltage represented vertically. If the computer's graphics resolution is sufficient, that is, if the points can be placed sufficiently close together, the resulting display can be virtually indistinguishable from the original signal.

Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, has two PCs, equipped with Tecmar Lab Master boards, that are used to digitize and store waveforms from biomedical experiments. The IBM color/graphics adapter, with its 640-by-200 high-resolution graphics mode, is well-suited for this purpose (although 400-point vertical resolution would be even better). The programs used, written in BASIC, could use the PSET statement in a FOR-NEXT loop to plot data points that were stored in an array. It takes about seven seconds to plot 640 points on the screen using interpreted BASIC; compil-

ILUSTRATION GERARD KUNKEL



eter set to a nonzero value; if it is set to zero, no grid is plotted.



are described below.

grid%. If grid% is set to any nonzero value, a grid of vertical and horizontal lines is plotted along with the waveform as shown in figure 1. If it is set to zero, no grid is plotted.

clr%. If clr% is set to any nonzero value the screen is cleared. If it is set to zero the screen is left undisturbed.

he subroutine PLOT.ASM, though intended to be called from BASIC, can be modified for use with any language.

This option is used to superimpose several waveforms as illustrated in figures 2, 3, and 4.

offset%. This parameter specifies the offset of the vertical zero point and is normally set in the range 0-199, but may be set to any integer value. For example, if offset% is set to 100, data values of 0 will appear centered vertically on the screen; if set to 0, data values of 0 will appear at the top of the screen. Figure 2 illustrates the effects of varying this parameter.

scale%. The data values are divided by scale% before being plotted. This is necessary because integer data values can range between -32,768 and +32,767, while the graphics card uses a vertical plotting range of 0-199. In addition, since the vertical coordinates of the IBM board are inverted, with larger values being plotted toward the bottom of the screen, the program inverts the data back, so that larger (positive) values are plotted at the top of the screen. If scale% is set to 0, the routine does not invert, divide, or offset the data. This is useful when the data in the array have already been converted to graphics coordinates: omitting the division step saves considerable time. Figure 3 shows the effects that can be obtained by varying scale%.

FIGURE 2: Waveforms With Offset Variations

These waveforms were produced using PLOTTEST.BAS and varying

the offset% parameter, which may be set to any integer value.

Displaying several waveforms by varying OFFSET

addr%. This parameter is the starting address of the data array to be plotted. The statement immediately preceding the CALL statement should be addr%=VARPTR(x%(i,i,...)), in which x%(i,j,...) is the first data array element to be plotted. For example, if a data array is dimensioned as x%(2000,2,2), then setting addr% equal to VARPTR (x%(200,2,2)) will result in elements x%(200,2,2) through x%(840,2,2) being plotted. stp%. The horizontal resolution of the color/graphics adapter is 640 points-

the maximum number of data points from one waveform that can be displayed at one time. The program allows the option of displaying fewer points, however, 320 or 160 data points may be displayed using the entire width of the screen. Stp% must be set equal to 1, 2, or 4; this value is not range-checked by the program. If set to 1, then 640 data points starting at addr% are plotted; if set to 2, then 320 are plotted; if set to 4, then 160 are plotted. In each case the plot fills the horizontal extent of the screen.

In addition to displaying waveforms collected with an ADC, the PLOT subroutine can be used to display data obtained via an RS-232 or IEEE-488 interface or data generated by some mathematical process such as process simulation. A graphics screen-dump

ing the program reduces this time to about two seconds. Some of the applications, however, would benefit from even faster processing. To obtain maximum speed, an assembly language routine was written to do the plotting.

The first routine was written to take advantage of one of the PC's system resources, namely the type 10H video I/O interrupt. Interrupt 10H makes writing the routine quite straightforward, because it allows access to the system's bit-mapped graphics capability from assembly language without having to deal with all of the details of the graphics board's memory. This first attempt resulted in a tenfold speed improvement over compiled BASIC.

Yet, the source listing for the type 10 interrupt in IBM's Technical Reference Manual shows that the code is quite inefficient when used only to clear the screen or to write a dot in high-resolution mode. By incorporating customized routines for these two functions into the plotting program, an even greater speed advantage is realized.

The subroutine PLOTASM, shown in listing 1, is intended to be called from a BASIC program, but it could be easily modified for use with any language. Listing 2, PLOTTEST.BAS, is a BASIC program that demonstrates the use of the PLOT subroutine.

The video mode must be set to 640-by-200 graphics by the calling program. In addition, the routine requires that six parameters, which control various aspects of the display, be passed to it by the calling program. The parameters are all integer variables, and the call is as follows:

CALL PLOT (grid%, clr%, offset%, scale%, addr%,stp%)

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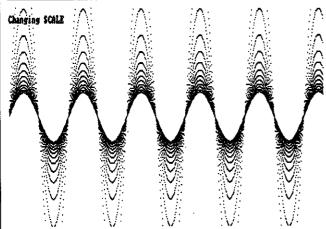
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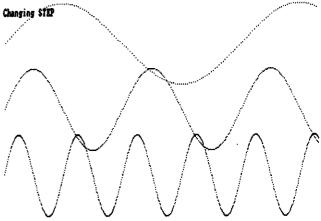
tuall side calle proc (byte

#### FIGURE 3: Waveform With Scale Variation



Waveforms like these can be produced using PLOTTEST.BAS and varying the value of the scale% parameter passed to PLOT.

#### FIGURE 4: Waveform With Step Variation



By setting the stp% parameter to 1, 2, or 4, waveforms with a varying number of data points can be produced with PLOTTEST.BAS.

program, such as GRAPHICS.COM supplied with PC-DOS 2.0, can be used to obtain a hard copy of the screen displays that are created by PLOT.

Execution speed could be slightly enhanced by placing the code that actually plots a point ("put\_point") inside the plotting loop rather than being called as a subroutine. A call to a near procedure requires 19 clock cycles (byte operand) or 23 clock cycles

(word operand), and an intrasegment return requires 20 clock cycles if the stack is not popped. Since this procedure is called 640 times, eliminating these statements could save up to 5.8 milliseconds per plot (43 clocks times 640 calls times 210 nanoseconds/clock = 5.8 ms). The range-checking of Y could also be dispensed with, if the user is confident that the data will not go outside this range, for an additional

savings of up to 2.15 ms per plot. PLOT is, however, a reliable and useful program that potentially may find as much use in other circumstances and for other disciplines as it has already found in the laboratory at Duke University.

Peter G. Aitken, Ph.D., works in the department of physiology at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina. He is a computer consultant and has written several articles for this magazine.

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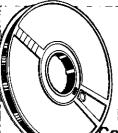
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#### PLOT

#### **LISTING 1: PLOTASM**

comment \*

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Department of Physiology Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC 27710

This subroutine uses the IBM color graphics board in the 640 X 200 high resolution mode to display analog waveforms that are stored as a series of values in an integer array. call plot (grids,clrs,offsets,scales,addrs,stps) if grid%<>0 a screen grid is plotted;

> if clr%⇔0 the screen is cleared; if clr%=0 the screen is not cleared.

if grid%=0 no grid is plotted.

offset% sets the vertical offset of the display; this is normally set in the range 0-199.

no cl

H1:

N2:

tan

scales sets the vertical gain of the display, with smaller values of scale% giving more gain.

addr% is the address (i.e., offset within the data segment) of the first array element to be plotted.

stp% must equal 1, 2, or 4: it determines if 640 (step%=1), 320 (step%=2) or 160 (step%=4) data points are plotted. Value not range checked.

sseg	segment	stack		;set	uр	stack
	dw	50 DUP	(?)			
sseg dseg	end s				•	
dseg	segment					

;served memory locations for divisor dw (?) ;the 6 parameters to be step (?) ;passed by the calling program. off set äw (?) clear йw (7) arid de (?)

video ends

ends

dseq

v ideo

segment public 'CODE'

segment at 08800H

assume cs:cseg,ss:sseg,ds:dseg,es:video

declare "PLOT" public iso it can be called from another program, ถแรก save register bo

;the next block of code gets the 6 parameters passed ;by the calling program and stores them in the proper locations

> bp.,sp mov s1.[bp]+16 mov dx.[s1] mov mφv grid.dx :1st parameter in GRID MON si.[bp]+14 dx.[si] 前ウヤ may clear .dx :2nd parameter in CLEAR si,[bp]+12 mov ៣០১ dx,[si] off\_set\_dx ;3rd parameter in OFF\_SET mov s1,[bp]+10 dx.[s1] divisor,dx i4th parameter in DIVISOR si.[bp]+8 dx.[si] mov array,dx ;5th parameter in ARRAY mov si.[bo]+6

mov dx.[si] MOY step.dx :6th parameter in STEP push :save es value dx.08800H mov :point es at video ram

es,dx ;if CLEAR \* D jump ahead, if CLEAR <> 0 clear screen. mov dx.clear dx.0 CMP no clear

the next 5 lines clear the screen by using the STOSW instruction to place 0 in all words of video memory.

> cx.2000H :video ram word count mov ax.Ö ;start at offset 0 may :set forward direction

stos ;if GRID  $\Leftrightarrow$ 0 put a grid on the screen - else jump

no\_clear: dx,grid dx,0 no\_grid ;first do horizontal grid lines

rep

;plot line in row 199 mov ax.199 ca1) horiz MOY ax.175 ;plot line in row 175, N1: call horiz :150. etc. sub ax.25 :if dx not < 0. do another ins

;now do vertical grid lines

cx,639 ;plot line in column 639 ca11 vert ;plot line in column 560, cx,560 mov N2: call vert ;480, etc. sub cx,80 N2 jas ;if cx not < 0, do another

the next block of code initializes cx, which will count loops, ;and si, which is used as an offset pointer within the data array

no grid: cx.640 ;count in cx mov ax,1280 MOY ;offset for start of plot cwd ;will be 1278 for step\*1. 1410 step ;638 for step=2, and 318 may si.ax ;for step=4sub 51.2

inow we start to plot

MOV bx.array ;put array base address :in bx :subtract STEP from cx; plot loop: sub cx.step jcxz done if the result is less :than O. we're done. ax,[bx][si] MOA get array element divisor.0 :if divisor\*O fump ahead CMP jz no div neg :negate it ;convert to double word 1419 divisor ;divide by scaling factor add ax,off\_set add the offset

;now ax has the row number, which can range from 0 to 199. ;The next 4 lines check to see if ax is within this range; ; if ax less than 0 or greater than 199 the point is not plotted.

no\_div: áx,0 .11 sk 1p cmp ax.199 ja skip call put\_point sk ip: sub \$1.2 :decrement data pointer to point at next array plot loop : element go back and jmp :do another done: es 000 рор bp 12 ret PLOT endp

"horiz" places a row of dots across the screen, placing a







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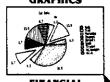
	-	umn. The call 1-199) in ax.	ling program must pass the
noriz	proc n	iear	
	WOA	cx,630	starting column number
H1:	call	put_point	
	sub	cx,15	;decrement column number
	стр	cx.0	;if cx>=0 do another
	jge	H1	
	ret		
horiz	endp		
;********	*******	******	********
	h row. T∺	e calling pro	n the screen, placing a dot gram must pass the desired
		near	
vert	orac		
vert	proc		estarting row number
vert	mov	ax,198	starting row number
	•	ax,198	starting row number:
	що¥	ax,198	starting row number;
	mov	ax,198 put_paint	•
	mov čátí sub	ax,198 put_point ax,6	idecrement row number
	mov čátí sub cmp	ax,198 put_point ax,6 ax,0	idecrement row number
vi:	mov čátí sub cmp jge	ax,198 put_point ax,6 ax,0	idecrement row number
vert	catt sub cmp jge ret endp	ax,198 put_point ax,6 ax,0 V1	idecrement row number
¥1: vert ;************************************	mov catt sub cmp jge ret endp	ax,198 put_point ax,6 ax,0 V1	;decrement row number ;if ax>=0 do another
vert ;************************************	mov catt sub cmp jge ret endp	ax,198  put_paint ax,6 ax,0 Y1	;decrement row number ;if ax>=0 do another
vert ;************************************	mov  call  sub  cmp  jge  ret  endp  ***********************************	ax,198 put_point ax,6 ax,0 Y1  **********************************	;decrement row number ;if ax>=0 do another
vert  ;********* ;This subrout; ;screen. Ent; ;pointing to	mov  call  sub  cmp  jge  ret  endp  ***********************************	ax,198 put_point ax,6 ax,0 Y1  **********************************	;decrement row number ;if ax>=0 do another  ***********************************
vert  ;********** ;This subrout; ;screen. Ent; ;pointing to	mov  call sub cmp jge ret endp  tine puts er with Y video ram proc	ax,198  put_point  ax,6 ax,0 Y1  a point on the (0-199) in ax (8800). Ail	;decrement row number ;if ax>=0 do another ************************************
Vi: vert ;**************************; ;This subrout ;screen. Entr	mov  catt  sub cmp jge ret endp  *********  tine puts er with Y video ram	ax,198  put_point  ax,6 ax,0  V1  *********************************	;decrement row number ;if ax>=0 do another  ***********************************

	push	ax	
	push	СX	;save cx and ax again for
	push	ах	;program use
	and	ax,OFEh	;strip odd/even bit of Y
	sal	ax,1	
	sal	ax,1 .	
	sal	ax,l	;ax≖ax times 8
	mov	bx,ax	
	sal	ax,l	
	sal	ax,1	;ax=ax times 32
	add	ax,bx	;ax≈ax times 40
	рор	bx	thow bx has original ax
	sar	bx,1	;low bit into CF
	jnb	even	if low bit was 0, y is
	bbs	ax,2000H	;even. if odd, adjust
			;for video odd row
			:addresses
; now ax has	40*Y if Y	is even and 40	*Y+2000H if Y is ped ~
this is the	address o	of the leftmost	*Y+2000H if Y is ped ~ video byte in the row now must add (X/8) to
this is the	address o	of the leftmost	video byte in the row
this is the	address o	of the leftmost	video byte in the row
this is the	address o	of the leftmost	video byte in the row
this is the in which the get actual	address on address of address	of the leftmost is to be put, We	video byte in the row
this is the in which the get actual	e address on address of address sar	of the leftmost is to be put. We cx,1	video byte in the row
this is the in which the get actual	e address o is point i address sar sar	of the leftmost is to be put. We cx,1 cx,1	video byte in the row now must add (X/8) to
this is the in which the get actual	e address o is point i address sar sar sar	of the leftmost is to be put. We cx,1 cx,1 cx,1	video byte in the row now must add (%/8) to ;cx=x/8
this is the in which the get actual	e address of is point of address sar sar sar add	of the leftmost is to be put. We cx,1 cx,1 cx,1 ax,cx	video byte in the row now must add (%/8) to ;cx=x/8
this is the in which the get actual	e address of sar sar sar add mov pop	of the leftmost is to be put. We  cx,1 cx,1 cx,1 ax,cx si,ax cx	video byte in the row now must add (X/8) to ;cx=x/8 ;now ax has final address
this is the in which the get actual even:	e address of sar sar sar add mov pop	of the leftmost is to be put. We  cx,1 cx,1 cx,1 ax,cx si,ax cx	video byte in the row now must add (X/8) to ;cx=x/8 ;now ax has final address
this is the in which the get actual even:	e address of address sar sar sar add mov popermine the	of the leftmost is to be put. We  cx,1  cx,1  cx,1  ax,cx  si,ax  cx  bit to set	video byte in the row now must add (X/8) to ;cx=x/8 ;now ax has final address ;now cx has original x
this is the in which the get actual even:	e address of address sar sar sar add mov popermine the and	of the leftmost is to be put. We  cx,1 cx,1 cx,1 ax,cx si,ax cx bit to set cx,0007H	video byte in the row now must add (X/8) to ;cx=x/8 ;now ax has final address ;now cx has original x ;now bx has x mod 8
this is the in which the get actual even:	address of sar sar sar add mov popermine the and mov	of the leftmost is to be put. We  cx,1 cx,1 cx,1 ax,cx si,ax cx bit to set cx,00074 a1,80H	video byte in the row now must add (X/8) to  ;cx=x/8 ;now ax has final address ;now cx has original x ;now bx has x mod 8 ;start with mask 10000000B
this is the in which the get actual even:	address of sar sar sar add mov popermine the and mov	of the leftmost is to be put. We  cx,1 cx,1 cx,1 ax,cx si,ax cx bit to set cx,00074 a1,80H	video byte in the row now must add (X/8) to  ;cx=x/8 ;now ax has final address ;now cx has original x ;now bx has x mod 8 ;start with mosk 10000000B ;shift bit right to correct
this is the in which the get actual even:	e address of sar sar sar add mov popermine the and mov shr	of the leftmost is to be put. We  cx,1 cx,1 cx,1 ax,cx si,ax cx bit to set cx,0007H a1,80H a1,c1	video byte in the row now must add (X/8) to  ;cx=x/8 ;now ax has final address ;now cx has original x ;now bx has x mod 8 ;start with mask 10000000B ;shift bit right to correct ;position
this is the in which the get actual even:	e address of sar sar sar add mov popermine the and mov shr	of the leftmost is to be put. We  cx,1 cx,1 cx,1 ax,cx si,ax cx bit to set cx,0007H a1,80H a1,c1	inow must add (X/8) to  ;cx=x/8 ;now ax has final address ;now cx has original x ;now bx has x mod 8 ;start with mask 10000000B ;shift bit right to correct ;position ;put in any other bits
this is the in which the get actual even:	e address of sar sar sar add mov popermine the and mov shr	of the leftmost is to be put. We  cx,1 cx,1 cx,1 ax,cx si,ax cx bit to set cx,0007H a1,80H a1,c1	inow must add (X/8) to  ;cx=x/8 ;now ax has final address ;now cx has original x ;now bx has x mod 8 ;start with mask 10000000B ;shift bit right to correct ;position ;put in any other bits ;that are already set in
this is the in which the get actual even:	e address of its point of address sar sar add mov pop premine the and mov shr or	of the leftmost is to be put. We  cx,1 cx,1 cx,1 ax,cx si,ax cx bit to set cx,0007H al,d0H al,c1 al,es:[si]	icx=x/8 ;now ax has final address ;now cx has original x ;now bx has x mod 8 ;start with mosk 10000000B ;shift bit right to correct ;position ;put in any other bits ;that are already set in ;that byte of video ram
this is the in which the get actual even:	e address of its point of address sar sar sar add mov pop ermine the and mov shr or	of the leftmost is to be put. We  cx,1 cx,1 cx,1 ax,cx si,ax cx bit to set cx,0007H al,80H al,cl al,es:[si]  es:[si],al	icx=x/8 ;now ax has final address ;now cx has original x ;now bx has x mod 8 ;start with mosk 10000000B ;shift bit right to correct ;position ;put in any other bits ;that are already set in ;that byte of video ram

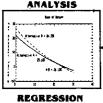


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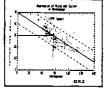
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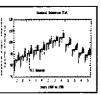
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DATA MAINTENANCE



**FORECASTING** 



```
put_point
*********
                     *****************
               ends
               end
LISTING 2: PLOTTEST.BAS
'BASIC program to demonstrate PLOT assembly language routing.
  compile: BASCOM plottest/n
  link: LINK plottest+plot
40 cls : locate 15.10
   input "Color/graphics adapter needed - continue (Y/N)";k$
   if k$="N" or k$="n" goto 2000
   if k$="Y" or k$="y" geto 50 else goto 40
50 dim x%(1280) : delay=6000 : screen 2
55 cls : locate 18,10
  print "Now calculating waveform array..."
60 for i%=0 to 1280
          a=sin(14*3.14/60)
           x%(1%)=int(q)
   x$="Entire waveform without grid"
   clr%=1 : grid%=0 : stp%=1 : scale%=10 : offset%=100
   gosub 1000
   gosub 1500
   x$="Entire waveform with grid.,
   clr%=1 : grid%=1 : stp%=1 : scale%=10 : offset%=100
   gosub 1000
   gosub 1500
   x$="Displaying several waveforms by varying OFFSET"
   clr%=1 : grid%=1 : stp%=1 : scale%=10
   for offset%=10 to 190 step 20
```

```
gosub 1000 : clr%=0 : next offset%
    gosub 1500
    x$="Changing SCALE"
    clr%=1 : grid%=0 : stp%=1 : offset%=100
    for scale#= 13 to 2 step -1
    gosub 1000 : clr%=0 : mext scale%
   gosub 1500
    x$= "Changing STEP"
    clr%=1 : grid%=0 : scale%=8 : offset%=40
    stρ%=4 : gosub 1000
    stp%=2 : clr%=0 : offset%=100 : gosub 1000
    stp%=1 : c1r%=0 : offset%=160 : gosub 1000
   gosub 1500
    *$="waveform scrolling with scale=0"
    cls : locate 2,1 : print x$
    for i%=0 to 1280
           xx(1x)=xx(1x)\6+100
   gosub 1500
   clr%=1 : grid%=0 : scale%=0 : offset%=100 : stp%=1
   for 1%=0 to 600 step 10
   addr%=varptr(x%({%))
   call plot (grid%,clr%,offset%,scale%,addr%,stp%)
   locate 24,34 : print "A=again E*exit"
900k$=inkey$ : if k$="" then goto 900
   if k$="A" or k$="a" then goto 55
   if k$="E" or k$="e" then goto 2000 else goto 900
1000
           addr%=varptr(x%(0))
   call plot (grid%,clr%,offset%,scale%,addr%,stp%)
   locate 2,1 : print x$ : return
1500'
           delay loop
   for w=l to delay
   next w
   return
2000
           screen 0.0.0 : end
```

## 8087 AND 80287 TECHNICAL TOOLS

87 BASIC/INLINE™ converts the output of the IBM Basic Compiler into optimized 8087

87FFT\*\* performs Forward and Inverse FFTs on real and complex arrays which occupy up to 512K bytes of RAM. Also does convolutions, auto correlations, hamming, complex vector multiplica-tion, and complex to radial conversions. Callable from MS Fortran or 87BASIC/INLINE .... \$150 87FFT-2™ performs two-dimensional FFTs Ideal for image processing. Requires 87FFT...\$75 MATRIXPAK manages a MEGABYTE! Written in assembly language, our runtime package accurately manipulates large matrices at very fast speeds. Includes matrix inversion and the solution of simultaneous linear equations.
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inline code which executes up to seven times faster than 87 BASIC. Supports separately compiled inline subroutines which are located in their A disk utility which thoroughly checks PC or AT hard disks for bad sectors and updates the MS DOS file allocation table accordingly...... 149 RTOS - REAL TIME OPERATING SYSTEM RTOS is a multi-user, multi-tasking real time operating system. It includes a configured version of Intel's iRMX-86, LINK-86, LOC-86, LIB-86, OH-86, and MicroWay's 87 DEBUG. Runs on the IBM-I XT, PC-AT and COMPAQ......400 INTEL COMPILERS ASM-86.....200 URS™ - Universal Run Time System¹ Generates programs with the Intel compilers which run on other operating systems. MS-DOS version is included with RTOS. SoftScope Symbolic Debugger 1500

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¹Requires RTOS or iRMX-86. All Intel compiler

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