Micro-Minutes

NEWSLETTER OF THE HEWLETT-PACKARD MICRO-COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP

J ENGELHARDT

Building . 28A

April 1981
(last issue Oct 80)

FUTURE MEETINGS

Video Game Design

by Ed Rotberg, Software Supervisor for Atari

May 7, 12 noon, in the 5M Conference Room

The design cycle of video arcade games will be described with emphasis on answering the questions: How are games and rules decided? What is considered 'fun'? What is the lifetime of an average game? How are sound effects generated? And what special purpose hardware do games require?

There will be a large screen demonstration of one of Atari's recent creations, "Battle Zone", to accompany the talk. Come and see what's inside an arcade game and enjoy the demonstration.

PAST MEETINGS

Speech Recognition, Oct 28

In recent years, computer technology and linguistic analysis have been wed to form the field of speech recognition. Accurately identifying spoken words requires compiling a list of cues embedded in every utterance that separate a specific word from all others in a vocabulary. This process is learned at an early age in humans and is now becoming possible by machine through the availability of inexpensive computing power. Tom Larson of Heuristics, Inc. discussed current trends in speech recognition and a hardware system was demonstrated.

Speech Analysis, Nov. 4

A digital model of the human vocal tract is used by Texas Instruments to realize speech production in solid state circuitry. As complex as speech may sound much of the information is redundant. TI has suceeded in distilling the essence of speech so that the memory required to store this information can be reduced by a factor of 80 from traditional techniques. Tony Chan of TI demonstrated their new Solid State Speech Module.

HARDWARE UPDATE

*CPU board - A last minute change in bus routing has eliminated a potential crosstalk problem and the boards are now being fabricated.

*Front Panel board - A final board has been tested extensively and production has begun. Look for delivery in May.

*EPROM board - Pilot board is working now. Some additional testing needs to be done.

Some people are interested in selling their systems - see want ads for details.

DIGITAL HAMS?

A new repeater, KA6M, is San Francisco's first (and possibly the nation's first) all digital simplex packet radio repeater for use in amateur radio. The repeater went into operation on December 10th, 1980 and since then has been running both as a packet repeater and a beacon. For more facts on KA6M contact Hank Magnuski, 311 Stanford Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025 (415) 854-1927 or Paul Zander at Standford Park Division, Bldg. 5m, (x3776).

WANT ADS

The following people are interested in selling their MCIG hardware systems:

Doug Gordon, Cupertino Division (x2078) - full system w/ keyboard and full set of connectors on motherboard

Don Mathieson, Standford Park Division (x2859) - completely assembled chassis with a full set of motherboard connectors

Please contact the individuals above to discuss bargaining, or contact Nic Lyons (x2015) for general information regarding our club microcomputer project.

HP Microcomputer Interest Group

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