

C.A.R. Hoare

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Author: C.A.R. Hoare.

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Introduction.

One of the major problems in the construction, check-out and maintenance of a large program is that of adequate documentation of the code. Aids to documentation, and means of enforcing the required disciplines on programmers, have been developed over the years. Among these are the adoption of symbolic programming languages, macro-languages, high level languages, etc. Unfortunately the use of the higher level languages has led to a decrease in efficiency in object programs, and even more seriously, to an expansion in their size. This report makes an initial attempt to investigate alternative methods of documenting the same program, and examine the penalties involved in each technique. The program segment chosen as an example was taken from real life, but cannot necessarily be regarded as typical, since it involves mathematical computations.

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The investigation is not complete, but is published partly as an illustration of the method of quantitative and factual analysis which should be applied by those engaged in research into machine and software design.

Summary.

Appendix 1 shows a flowchart for the program. Note that the boxes contain only "comments" explaining what needs doing and why. They do not contain any indication of how the tasks are to be performed.

Appendix 2 shows the same flowchart using begins, ends and indentations instead of arrows and boxes. If a "flowchart" is to be input into the computer, this is the form it should take. It may be found that the indented form is just as clear as the pictorial form, and might replace it as a standard documentation technique.

Appendix 3 shows how that data for a program might be fully annotated. For each variable name we indicate the purpose for which it is used, and list all the comments which refer primarily to it. To the right of the line, we give the actual declaration of the quantity, and the actual symbolic coding corresponding to each comment. It might be helpful also to have a cross-reference listing of all the places where the variable is used or has its value changed by assignment.

Appendix 4 shows the program written in "pure" ALGOL. All the comments have been inserted, using the PL/I comment convention /*.....*/. A program like this could be produced automatically from the material of the previous two appendices, using the comments as macro-names and the coding as macro bodies. However, this would be a difficult operation on a small computer, since it is an essential prerequisite of good documentation that the comments should be written out in full. Furthermore, the resulting code would be very diffuse, since it makes no attempt to "bind" the code together by storage of temporary

results, use of registers, etc. Finally, a systematic use of program generation in this way is likely to lead to frequent failures to set variables properly before their use.

Appendix 5 shows the same program (unannotated) written in ALGOL, but using the letters A and B to stand for the accumulator and the B-register. This is very useful in the production of efficient object code. However, the values of A and B are frequently changed as a side effect of other instructions which do not mention them, and the programmer runs a constant risk of forgetting this.

Appendix 6. shows a form of infix notation which mirrors exactly the structure of the machine code. Its advantages over machine code are:-

1. Bracketed and indented techniques can be used (although in this example they are not).
2. More than one related instruction can be placed on a single line.
3. Infix notations are more familiar and pleasant in general than prefix notations of machine code.

This code was the first attempt to understand the original machine code. It may be worth while to do more work on this form of low-level notation.

The actual SIR coding for this program is also available for inspection.

As an additional study of the code, the following figures were obtained:

Of 253 instructions, there were
32 b-register loads
59 b-lined instructions

50 jumps.

112 other instructions.

If a second B-register had been available 15 instructions would have been saved; if yet a third b-register had been available, a further 5 instructions would be saved. If the B-register were wholly volatile, (i.e. always had to be reloaded before use), an additional 25 instructions would be required.

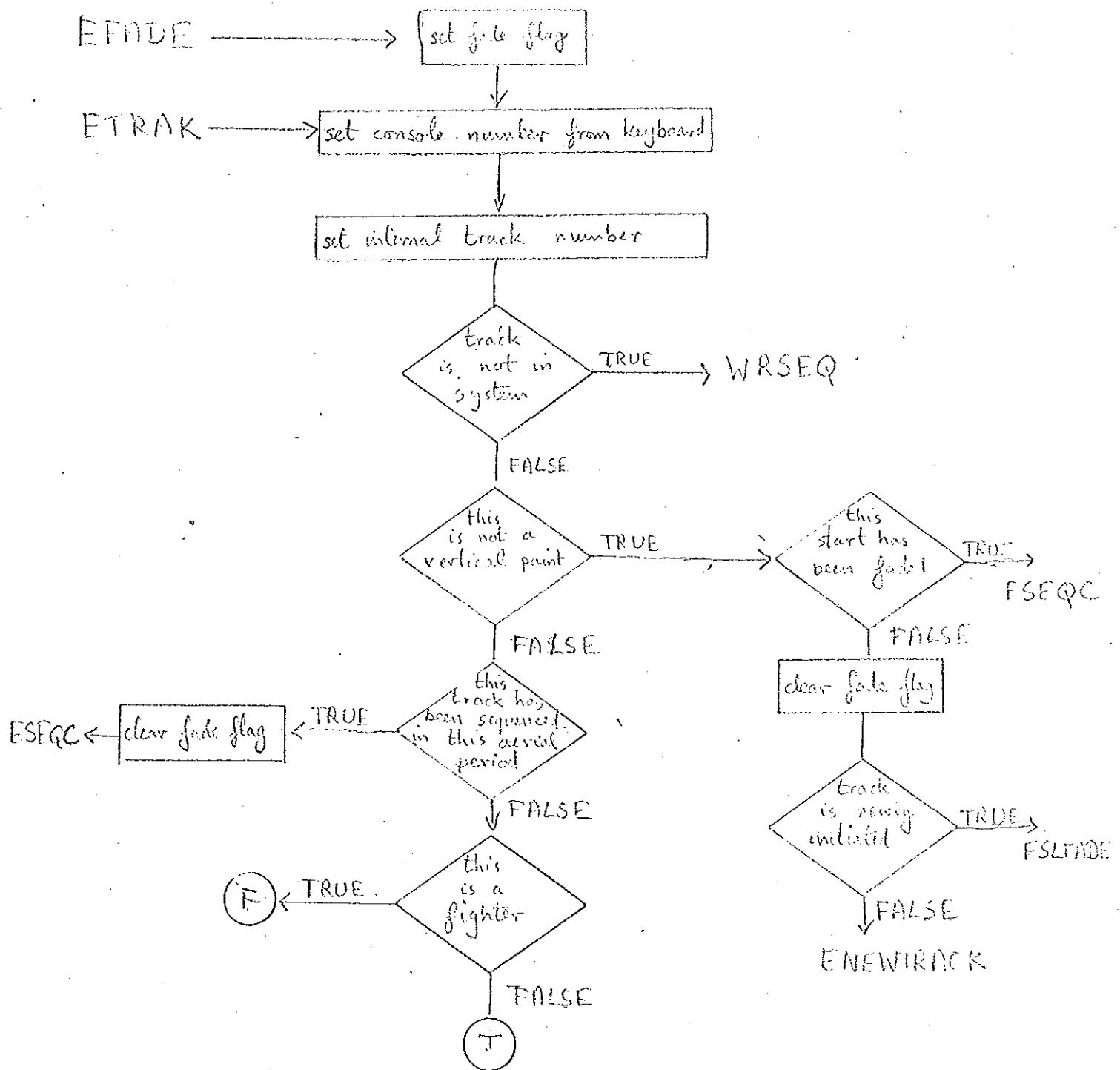
(
Conclusion.

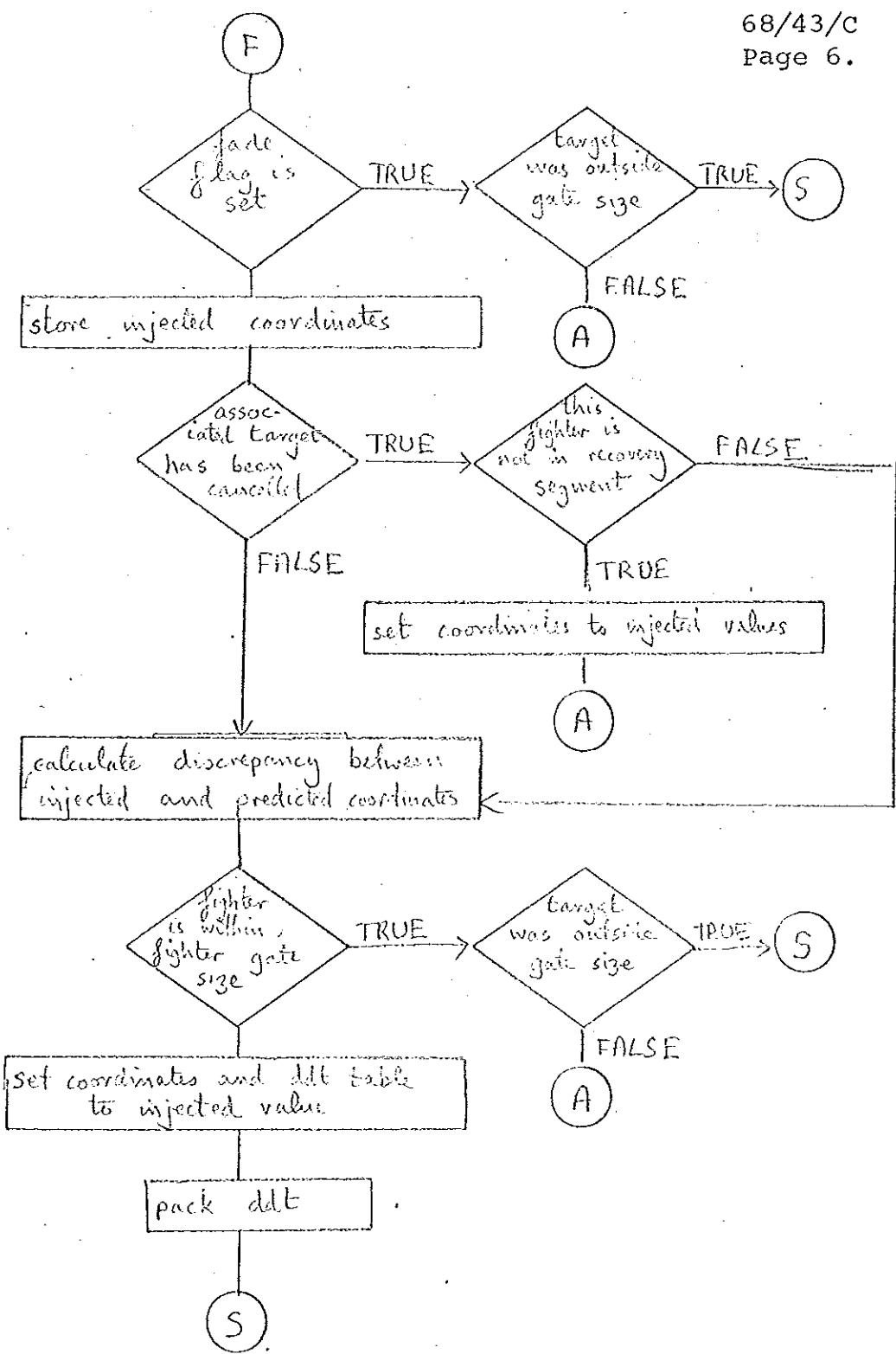
No firm conclusions are available at the present stage. Numeric estimates should be made of the penalties of using each of the proposed notations. The example program should be used to test the characteristics of proposed future machine designs, and software designs.

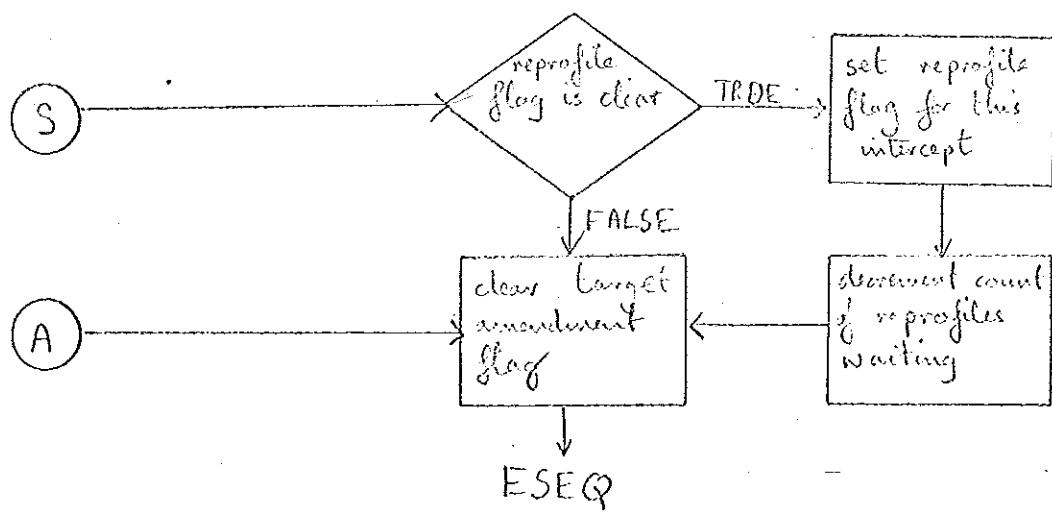
One possibility arises from the study of optimisation, that perhaps the hardware should have one entirely volatile accumulator and one entirely volatile B-register. These would be used exclusively by the translater of a high-level language. Any other registers available may be put under the control of the programmer by providing standard identifiers, as in Appendix 5.

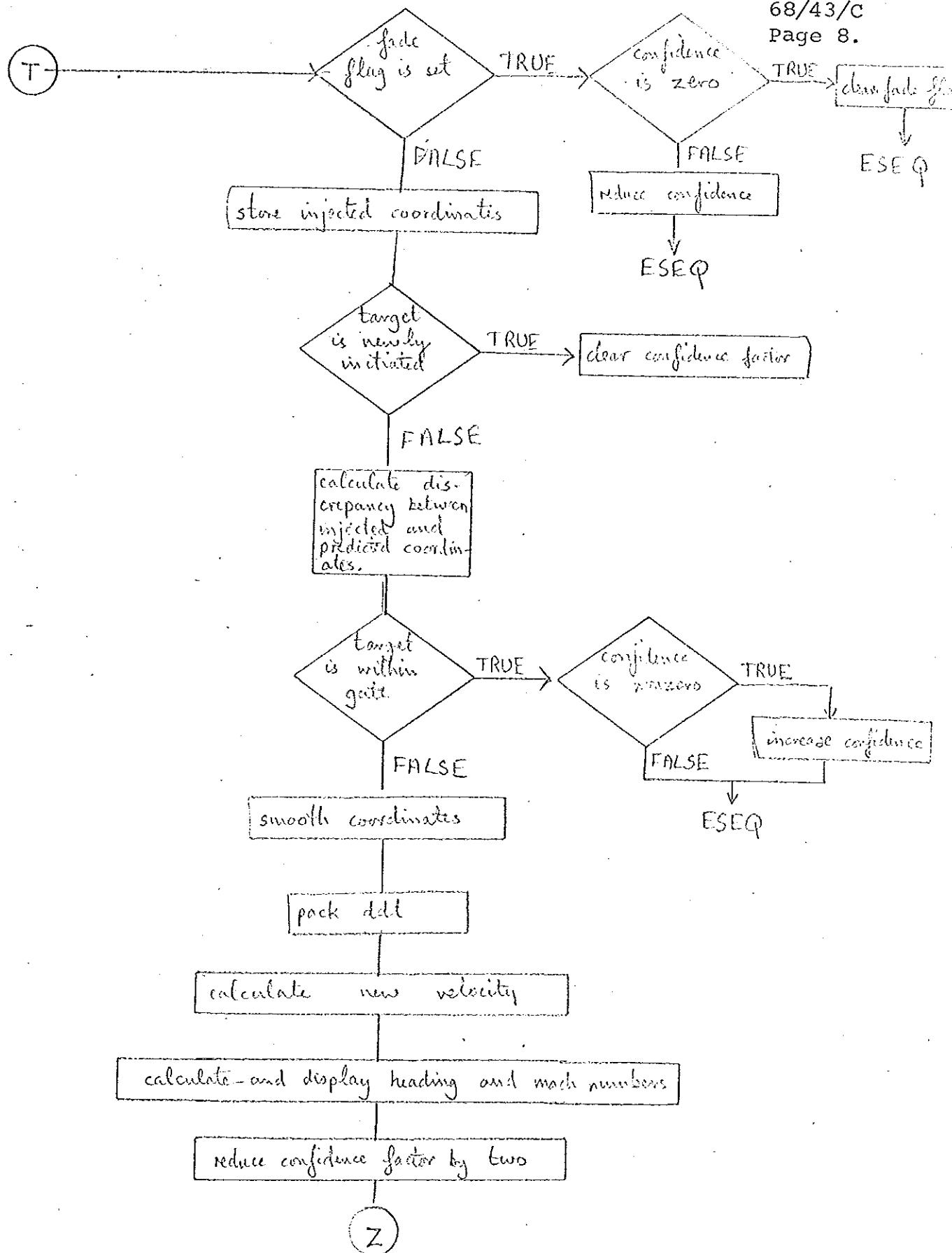
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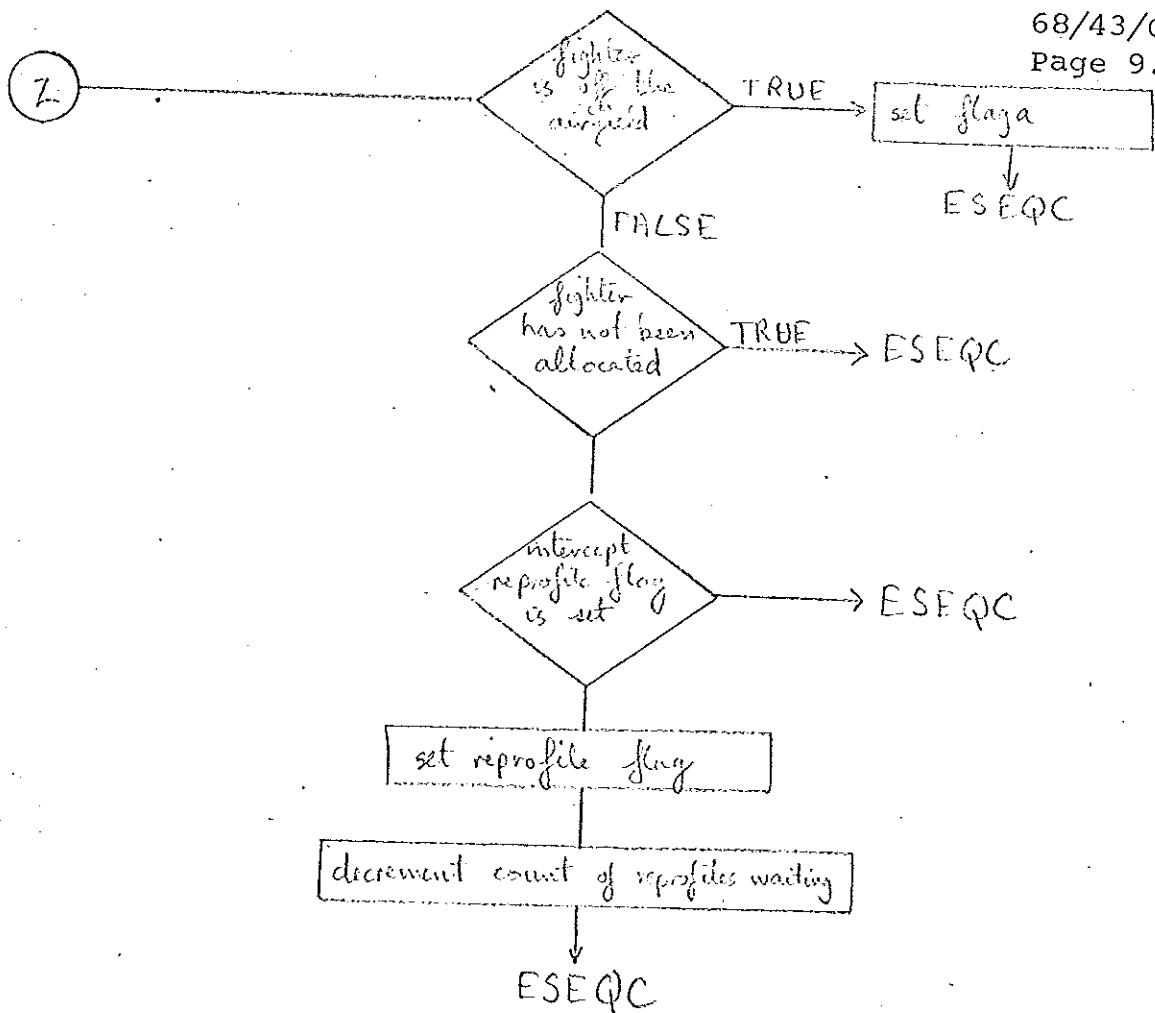
Appendix 1. TRACKING PROGRAM: FIGHTER MODULE.
Flow chart in conventional notation.











Appendix 2. TRACKING PROGRAM: FIGHTER MODULE
Flow chart in ALGOL notation.

EFADE: set fade flag;

ETRAK: set console from keyboard;
set internal track number;
if track is not in system then go to WRSEQ
if this is not a vertical point then
 begin if this start has been faded then go to ESEQC;
 clear fade flag;
 if track is newly initiated then go to ELSFADE;
 else to to ENEWTRAK
 end;

if this track has been sequenced in this aerial period
then
 begin clear fade flag;
 go to ESEQC
 end;

```
if this is a fighter then
    begin if fade flag is set then
        begin if target was outside gate size
            then go to SETFREPRO
            else go to ACLEAR
        end;

    store injected coordinates;
    if associated target has been cancelled then
        begin if this fighter is not in recovery segment then
            begin set coordinates to injected values;
                go to ACLEAR
            end;
        end;
    calculate discrepancy between injected and predicted
    coordinates;
    if fighter is within fighter gate size then
        begin if target was outside gate size
            then go to SETFREPRO
            else go to ACLEAR
        end;

    set coordinates and ddt table to injected value;
    pack ddt;

SETFREPRO: if reprofile flag is clear then
    begin set reprofile flag for this intercept;
        decrement count of reprofiles waiting
    end;

ACLEAR;    clear flaga;
            clear fade flag;
            go to ESEQC

end fighter
```

```
else
begin comment this is a target;
    if fade flag is set then
        begin if confidence is zero then clear fade flag;
                else reduce confidence;
                    go to ESEQC.
            end;

store injected coordinates;
if this target is newly initiated then clear confidence factor
else begin calculate discrepancy between injected and
predicted coordinates;
    if target is within gate then
        begin if confidence is non zero then increase
                confidence;
            go to ESEQC
        end;
    end;

smooth coordinates;
pack ddt;
calculate new velocity;
calculate and display heading and mach numbers;
reduce confidence factor by two;
if fighter is off the airfield then
    begin set flag a;
        go to ESEQC
    end;

if fighter has not been allocated then go to ESEQC;
if intercept reprofile flag is set then go to ESEQC;
set reprofile flag;
decrement count of reprofiles waiting;
go to ESEQC

end;
```

Appendix 3. Correlation of Comments and Code.

flaga
table of flags for each console,
indicating that target was outside
gate size.

flaga [0:2] =
(0, 0, 0)

target was outside gate size

flaga [v console] <0

- 1. clear flaga
- 2.

flaga [v console] :=0

tgate

table of gate size for
confidence factor.
tgate [-1] is gate size for
fighter.

tgate [-1:7] =
(+1/-5, +2/-5, +1.25/-5,
+.9/-5, +.75/-5, + .6/-5,
+.45/-5, +.35/-5, +.24/-5)

- .1 fighter is within fighter
gate size.
- .2 discrepancy \leq tgate [-1]

target is within gate.

injected x,
injected y,
temporary storage for
injected coordinates.

integer injected x,
injected y;

.1
store injected
coordinates.

injected x : = v rollx [v console]
injected y : = v rolly [v console]

fade flag indicates that the point is to be faded.

integer fade

- 1 set fade flag.
- 2 clear fade flag.
- 3 fade flag is set.

fade: = -1,

fade: = 0

fade < 0

v console number of console which has
 injected the current trace.

integer v console.

.1 set console from keyboard

v console: = ckbno -1

vtrackno	number of current track	<u>integer</u> vtrackno.
1	set internal track number	vtrackno: = tabtrak [ptrak [vconsole]]
2	track is not in system.	vtrackno < 0
3	this is a fighter.	vtrackno \geq 11

t seqc
table of times of last
sequencing for each track.

tseqc [0:23]

1
track has been sequenced
in this aerial period.

tseqc [vtrackno]=tud time
[vtrackno]

tx, ty, tables of x and y coordinates
for each track.

1 set coordinates to injected
values.
tx [vtrackno] := injected x;
ty [vtrackno] := injected y;

2 set coordinates and ddt table
to injected value.
tx [vtrackno] := bddt3[2] :=
injected x;
ty [vtrackno] := bddt3[3] :=
injected y;

3 smooth coordinates.

begin integer smoothing factor, B;
B := vtrackno; smoothing factor := tpos [vcon[B]];
bddt3 [2] := tx [B] := (.5 - smoothing factor) * injected x
+ smoothing factor * tx [B] left 1;
bddt3 [3] := ty [B] := (.5 - smoothing factor) * injected y
+ smoothing factor * ty [B] left 1;

end.

bddt [0:3] ?

1 pack ddt.

bddt 3[1]: = vtrackno left 7
and 130944 +5;

PERIPH (4206)

vkon
table of confidence factors for
non fighter targets.
values range up to 7.

1. this target is newly initiated.
vkon [vtrackno] < 0
2. clear confidence factor.
vkon [vtrackno] := 0
3. confidence is non zero.
vkon [vtrackno] ≠ 0
4. confidence is zero.
vkon [vtrackno] = 0
5. reduce confidence.
vkon [vtrackno] := vkon [vtrackno] -1;
6. reduce confidence by two.
A := vkon[vtrackno] - 2;
vkon[vtrackno] :=
if A ≥ 0 then A else 0

Appendix 4. TRACKING PROGRAM: FIGHTER MODULE.
Fully annotated in pure ALGOL.

```
begin integer injected x, injected y, vtrackno, v console;  
  
EFADE: fade:= -1; /* set fade flag*/  
ETRAK: v console := ckbno -1/*set console from keyboard*/  
vtrackno:= tabtrak [ptrak[v console]]/* set internal  
track number */  
if vtrackno <0 then /* track is not in system*/  
    go to WRSEQ;  
if vidcount [v console] ≠ 0 then /* this is not a  
vertical point. */  
    begin if fade >0 then go to ESEQC;  
        /* this start has been faded */  
        fade := 0; /* clear fade flag*/  
        if finit [v console]>0 then go to ENEWTRAK  
            /* track is newly initiated */  
            else go to ESLFADE  
  
    end;  
if tseqc [vtrackno]=tudtime [vtrackno] then  
    /* track has been sequenced in this aerial period*/  
    begin fade:=0; /* clear fade flag*/  
    go to ESEQC  
end;  
if vtrackno>11 then /* this is a fighter*/  
begin integer injected x, injected y, discrepancy;  
if fade <0 then /* fade flag is set*/  
begin if flaga [v console]<0 then  
    /*target was outside gate size*/  
    go to SETFREPRO  
    else go to ACLEAR  
  
end;
```

```

injected x := vrollx [v console];
injected y := vrolly [v console];/* store injected coordinates*/
if tabtrak [ptrak[v console]-1]<0 then
    /*associated target has been cancelled*/
    begin if tsegno [vtrackno - 12] ≠ 18 then
        /* this fighter is not in recovery segment*/
        begin tx [vtrackno]:= injected x;
            ty [vtrackno]:= injected y;
            /* set coordinates to injected values*/
            go to ACLEAR
    end;

LDISCREP; /* calculate discrepancy between injected and
           predicted coordinates */
if discrepancy ≤ tgate [-1] then
    /* fighter is within fighter gate size*/
    begin if flaga [v console] <0 then
        /* target was outside gate size */ go to SETFREPRO
        else go to ACLEAR;
    end;

tx[vtrackno]:= bddt3 [2]:= injected x;
ty[vtrackno]:= bddt3 [3]:= injected y;
/* set coordinates and ddt table to injected value*/
bddt3[1]:= vtrackno left 7 and 130944 + 5;

PERIPH (4206); /* pack ddt*/

SETFREPRO: B:= store 2 + vtrackno;
if frepro [B -12] = 0 then
    /* reprofile flag is clear*/
    begin increment (frepro [B - 12]);
        /* set reprofile flag for this intercept*/
        frepro [store 2 - 1]:= frepro [store 2 - 1]-1;
        /* decrement count of reprofiles waiting*/
    end;

```

```

ACLEAR: flaga [v console]:= 0; /* clear flaga*/
      fade := 0; /* clear fade flag*/
end fighter;
/* this is a target*/
else if fade < 0 then /* fade flag is set*/
begin if vkon [vtrackno]= 0 then /* confidence is zero*/
      fade:= 0 /* clear fade flag*/
      else vkon [vtrackno]:=vkon[vtrackno]-1;
           /* reduce confidence*/
      go to ESEQC
end;

injected x:= vrollx [vconsole];
injected y:= vrolly [vconsole]; /*store injected coordinates*/
if vkon [vtrackno] < 0 then /*this target is newly initiated*/
      vkon [vtrackno]:= 0 /* clear confidence factor*/
else begin LDISCREP;
/* calculate discrepancy between injected and
predicted coordinates */
if discrepancy < tgate [vkon[vtrackno]] then
/*target is within gate */
begin if vkon [vtrackno] ≠ 0 then
/* confidence is non zero */
      vkon [vtrackno]:= vcon[vtrackno] + 1;
      go to ESEQ
end;
end;

begin integer smoothing factor, B;
B:= vtrackno;
smoothing factor:= tpos [vcon[B]];
bddt3[2]:= tx [B]:= ((.5 - smoothing factor)*injected x
+ smoothing factor *tx [B]) left 1;
bddt3[3]:= ty [B]:= ((.5 - smoothing factor *injected y
+ smoothing factor *ty [B]) left 1;
end; /* smooth coordinates*/

```

```
bddt3[1]:= vtrackno left 7 and 130944 + 5;  
PERIPH (4206); /* pack ddt */  
begin integer dt, new unsmoothed x velocity, velocity smoothing  
factor, new unsmoothed y velocity, B;  
B:= vtrackno;  
dt:= tudtime [B] - tpretudtime [B];  
new unsmoothed x velocity := (tprex [B] - injected x)/dt;  
velocity smoothing factor := trel [vcon[B]];  
txvelo[B]:= (new unsmoothed x velocity * velocity smoothing  
factor + (.5 - velocity smoothing factor) * txvelo  
[B]) left 1;  
new unsmoothed y velocity := (tprey [B] - injected y)/dt;  
tyvelo [B]:= (new unsmoothed y velocity * velocity smoothing  
factor + (.5 velocity smoothing factor)*tyvelo  
[B] left 1;  
end; /* calculate new velocity*/;  
LMHDIS; /* calculate and display heading and mach numbers */  
A:= vkon [vtrackno]- 2;  
vkon [vtrackno]:= if A > 0 then A else 0;  
/* reduce confidence factor by two*/  
if tabtrak [ptrak[vconsole]+ 1] > 0 then  
/* fighter is off the airfield*/  
begin flaga [vconsole] := -1; /* set flaga */  
    go to ESEQC  
end;  
if tote [tabtrak[ptrak[v console]]+12]= 0 then  
    /* fighter has not been allocated */ go to ESEQC  
if frepro [store 2 + vtrackno] ≠ 0 then  
    /* intercept reprofile flag is set */ go to ESEQC  
increment (frepro [store 2 + vtrackno]);  
    /* set reprofile flag */  
frepro [store 2 - 1]:= frepro [store 2 - 1]- 1;  
    /* decrement count of profiles awaiting recalculation */  
end.
```

Appendix 5. TRACKING PROGRAM: FIGHTER MODULE.
ALGOL subset with register optimisation.

```
begin injected x, injected y, vtrackno, v console;  
  
EFADE: fade: = -1;  
ETRAK: B: = v console : = ckbno - 1;  
vtrackno:=A: = tabtrak [ptrak[B]];  
    if A < 0 then go to WRSEQ;  
  
    B: = v console;  
    if vidcount [B] ≠ 0 then  
        begin if fade ≤ 0 then go to ESEQC;  
            fade: = fade + 1;  
            if finit [B] ≥ then go to ENEWTRAK  
            else go to ESLFADE  
        end;  
    A: = tudtime [vtrackno] - tseqc [vtrackno];  
    if A = 0 then  
        begin fade: = A;  
            go to ESEQC  
        end;  
    if vtrackno ≥ 11 then  
        begin comment FIGHTER;  
            integer injected x, injected y, discrepancy;  
            if fade < 0 then  
                begin if flaga [v console] ≤ then go to  
                    SETFREPRO  
                else go to ACLEAR  
            end;
```

```
B: = v console;
injected x: = vrollx [B];
injected y: = vrolly [B];
if tabtrak [ptrak[B]-1] < 0 then
    begin comment CANTGT;
        B: = vtrackno;
        if tsegno [B-12] ≠ 18 then
            begin tx [B]: = injected x;
                ty [B]: = injected y;
                go to ACLEAR
            end,
        end;
LDISCREP;
if tgate [-1]> discrepancy then
    begin if flaga [v console]< 0 then go to
        SETFREPO
        else go to ACLEAR
    end
B: = vtrackno;
tx[B]: = bddt3[2]: = injected x;
ty[B]: = bddt3[3]: = injected y;
bddt3[1]: = vtrackno left 7 and 130994 + 5;
PERIPH (4206);

SETFREPRO: B: = store 2 + vtrackno;
if frepro [B - 12] ≠ 0 then
    begin frepro [B - 12]: + 1;
        B: = store 2;
        frepro [B - 1]: = frepro [B - 1]-1
    end;
ACLEAR: flaga [v console]: = fade : = 0;
go to ESEQC;
end fighter;
```

```
else
  if fade < 0 then begin
    comment DECRK;
    B: = vtrackno;
    A: = vkon [B]
    if A = 0 then begin fade: = A; go to ESEQC
      end;
    vkon (B): = A -1;
    go to ESEQC
      end;

  B: = v console;
  injected x:= vrollx [B];
  injected y:= vrolly [B];
  B: = vtrackno;
  else begin if v con [B] < 0 then v con [B]: = 0
    LDISCREP;
    A: = discrepancy - t gate [vcon[vtrackno]];
    B: = vtrackno;
    if A < 0 then begin comment INCRK; if vcon [B] ≠ 0 then
      vcon [B] : + 1;
      go to ESEQC
      end;
  begin integer smoothing factor, temp;
    B: = vtrackno;
    A: = smoothing factor : = tpos [vcon[B]];
    temp: = (65536 - A) *tx [B];
    bddt3[2]:=tx[B]:= (smoothing factor * injected x +
      temp) left 1;
    temp: = (65536 - A) *ty [B];
    bddt[3]:=ty[B]:= (smoothing factor * injected y +
      temp) left 1;
  end;
```

```
bddt3[1]:= vtrackno left 7 and 13094 + 5;  
PERIPH (4206);  
begin integer dt, new unsmoothed x velocity, velocity  
smoothing factor, new unsmoothed y velocity,  
temp;  
B:= vtrackno;  
dt:= tudtime [B]- tpredtime [B];  
new unsmoothed x velocity:=(t prex [B]- injected x)/dt;  
A:= velocity smoothing factor:= trel[vcon[B]]  
B:= vtrackno;  
temp:=(65536 - A) * txvelo [B];  
txvelo [B]:= (velocity smoothing factor * new unsmoothed  
x velocity + temp) left 1;  
new unsmoothed y velocity:=(t prey [B]- injected y) dt;  
temp:=(65536 - velocity smoothing factor) * tyvelo[B]  
tyvelo [B]:= (new unsmoothed y velocity * velocity  
smoothing factor + temp) left 1;  
end;  
LMHDIS;  
B:= vtrackno;  
A:= vcon [B]- 2;  
vcon [B]:= if A  $\geq$  0 then A else 0;  
B:= ptrak [v console];  
if tabtrak [B + 1]  $\geq$  0 then  
    begin flaga [v console]:= -1;  
        go to ESEQC  
    end  
if tote [tabtrak[B] + 12] = 0 go to ESEQC;  
B:= store 2 + vtrackno;  
if frepro [B]  $\neq$  0 then go to ESEQC;  
frepro [B]:= + 1;  
B:= store 2;  
frepro [B - 1]:= frepro [B-1]-1;  
go to ESEQC
```

UNOPTIMISED OBJECT CODE

	EFADE	4	-1	
		5	FADE	set fade flag
	ETRAK	4	CKEYBOARD	
		1	-1	
		5	VCONSOLE	set console from keyboard.
		0	VCONSOLE	
		0	PTRAK	
		4	TABTRAK	
		5	VTRACKNO	set internal track number.
		9	T1	
		0	VCONSOLE	
		4	VIDCOUNT	This is not a vertical point.
		9	C	FALSE
		0	VCONSOLE	
		4	FADE	This start has been faded.
		9	C	FALSE
		8	ESEQC	TRUE
	□	10	FADE	clear fade flag
		4	FINIT	track is newly initiated.
		9	ENEWTRAK	TRUE
		8	ESLFADE	FALSE
	□	0	VTRACKNO	
		4	TSEQ	track has been sequenced in
		0	VTRACKNO	this aerial period.
		2	TUDTIME	TRUE
		7	(
		4	+ O	
		5	FADE	
		8	ESEQC)	

Appendix 6. Infix notation for machine code.

EFADE: -1 =: FADE;
ETRAK: CKBNO -1 =: VCONNO = : B;
TABTRAK(PTRAK(B)) < O go to WRSEQ =: VTRAKNO;
VIDCOUNT (VCONNO) ≠ O (FADE) O go to ESEQC;
FADE: + 1; FINIT (B) < O (go to ELSFADE else go to
ENEWTRAK));
TSEQC(VTRAKNO) Θ TUDTIME (B) = O (=:FADE go to ESEQC);

READ: VTRAKNO - 11 < O go to fighter.
FADE < O go to DECRK;
VROLLX(VCONNO) =: W3S(4);
VROLLY(B) =: W3S(5);
VKON(VTRAKNO) > O go to KIN IT
call LDISCREP;
TGATE(VKON(VTRACKNO)) Θ W3S [VTRAKNO =: B] < O go to
INCREEK
KIN IT:, O =: VKON(B);
(TPOS(VKON(B))=; W3S) Θ 65536) *TX(VTRAKNO) =:W3S -(1);
W3S*W3S (4) + W3S (1) left 1 =: TX(B) =: BDDT 3(2);
(W3S Θ 65536)* TY (B) =: W3S (1);
W3S * W3S(5) + W3S (1) left 1 =: T7(B) =: BDDT 3(3);
VTRAKNO left 7 and 130944 + 5 =: BDDT 3(1);
PERIPH (4206);
TPRETUDT (B) Θ TUDTIME =: W3S (1)
W3S(4) Θ TPREG (B) Θ (clear auxiliaric register)
O /W3S(1) =: W3S(3);
TVEL (VCON(B)) =: W3S Θ 65536 * TXVELO(TRAKNO) =:W3S(2);
W3S(3) *W3S + W3S (2) left 1 =: TXVELO (B);
W3S(5) Θ TPREG(B) Θ O / W3S (1) =: W3S (3);
W3S Θ 65536 * TYVELO (B) =: W3S (2);
W3S(3) *W3S + W3S (2) left 1 =: TYVELO (B);
call LMHDIS;
VKON(VTRAKNO) -2 >O (=: VKON (B) else O=: VKON(B));
TABTRAK (PTRAK (VCONNO) +1) > O
(-1 =: FLAGA (VCONNO); go to ESEQC);
TESTOTE: TOTE (TABTRAK (B) + 12) = O go to ESEQC;
STORE 2 + VTRAKNO =: B;
FREPRO (B) ÷ O go to ESEQC;
FREPRO (B) : +1;
FREPRO (STORE 2 - -) -1 =: FREPRO (B-1);
go to ESEQC

DECRX; VKON (VTRAKNO) = 0 go to ACLEAR (3); - 1 =: VKON (B);
FADE: +1; go to ESEQC;
INCRX: VKON (VTRAKNO) = 0 go to ESEQC;
VKON (B) : + 1; go to ESEQC;
FIGHTER: FADE <0 (go to READF);
VROLLX (VCONNO) =: W3S(4);
VROLLY (B) = : W3S (5);
TABTRAK (PTRAK(B) -1) <0 go to CANTGT
FIGHTERIO: call LDISCREP;
TGATE (-1) θ W3S <0 go to READF;
B: = VTRAKNO;
W3S(4)=: TX (B) =: BDDT3(2);
W3S(5)=: TY(B) =: BDDT3(3);
VTRAKNO left 7 and 130944 + 5 =: BDDT 3(1);
PERIPH(4206);
SETFREPRO: STORE 2 + VTRAKNO =: B;
FREPRO (B-12) = 0 go to ACLEAR;
FREPRO (B-12): + 1;
B:= STOREZ;
-1 + FREPRO (B-1) =: FREPRO(B-1)
ACLEAR:B:= VCONNO;
0 =: FLAGA (B)=: FADE;
go to ESEQC;
READF: FLAGA (VCONNO) < 0 go to SETFREPRO
else go to ACLEAR;
CANTGT:TSEGNO(VTRAKNO - 12)-18 = 0 go to FIGHTERIO;
W3S (4) = : TX (B);
W3S (5) = : TY (B);
go to ACLEAR.