

NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY
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VLA COMPUTER MEMO #121

ANTENNA ITEM MONITOR LIMIT CHECKING
Preliminary Specification

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I. Introduction

The limit checking on the monitor points will be performed by a virtual computer with the instructions given in this memo. The virtual machine's operating memory is a short (32 word) push down stack (Last-in-first-out). The command memory is a list of commands of variable length. The command opcode is in the left byte of the first instruction word, and the required first parameter in the right byte. Any further parameters required are full-word parameters immediately following the first.

The antenna item command list will be executed once for each antenna in the system in such a fashion that all the references to monitor points have the appropriate antenna address inserted.

II. Commands Of The Virtual Machine

1. Load Monitor Points

The first (byte) parameter specifies which word or words of the de-multiplex area are to be loaded - leftmost bit selects single or double, offset from antenna entry is given by the other bits. The full-word parameter gives the DSA and MPXA, right justified. The requested monitor value is pushed on the stack.

2. Load Constant

The first bit of the byte parameter specifies single or double load. The one or two word constant follows. The constant is pushed on the stack.

3. Load Computed Value

The byte parameter gives the type of block from which the value is to be loaded, except the left-most bit specifies single or double load. The code is:

0	Array control block
1	ARM control block
3	Subarray control block
4	IF group control block
5	Antenna control block
9	Preamp AB control block
10	Preamp BC control block
17	IPA control block
18	IPB control block
19	IPC control block
20	IPD control block
25	IPA Frontend control block
26	IPB Frontend control block
27	IPC Frontend control block
28	IPD Frontend control block
33	L Frontend control block
34	C Frontend control block
35	U Frontend control block
36	K Frontend control block

Word parameter has offset within block.

4. Stack Arithmetic - Byte Parameter Gives Operation as follows:

Stack Operations:

0	Swap top two entries
1	Duplicate top entry
2	Over - puts duplicate of second item on top of the stack
3	Discard top of stack

Unitary operations - replace top element by operated upon element

16	Twos complement
17	Double twos complement
18	Ones complement
19	=0? (set 1 for true)
20	≥0?
21	<0?
22	Convert 4 BCD digits to binary
23	Add one to top of stack

Binary operations - replace top two elements
by their function

32	Add
33	Double Add
34	Subtract
35	Double Subtract
36	Multiply
37	Divide
38	OR
39	Exclusive OR
40	And
41	Extract
42	= (replace by 1 if top two elements are equal, else by 0)
43	< (true if second element < first)
44	>

5. Shift commands

These operate on top one or two elements of stack.
The byte parameter has following meaning:

Bit	8	Simple/rotate	(I/O)
	9	Left/Right	
	10	Logical/arithmetic	
	11	Single/double	
	12		
	13		
	14	Shift value	
	15		

6. Compare with limits. If the top of the stack is
between the two word parameters (assumed in ascending
order) in value, it is replaced by zero. If not, it
is replaced by one.

7. Conditional skip, exit, or flag

Examine byte parameter. Bits have meaning as
follows:

8	Count errors, if set Flag error if reset
9	Error count to be reset if top of stack is zero
10	Error count to be reset if count value exceeded

- 11 Flag error but do not print
- 12 Skip to branch flag only
- 13 If cal observation set cal flag

If top of stack is 0 and bit 9 is set, reset error counter in de-multiplex area. Then, if top of stack is zero skip to branch flag (if bit 12 is set) or to end of definition. If top of stack is 1 (error condition) take action described in the remaining bits and as described in the remaining parameters. The first word parameter is DCS address of associated monitor point - DSA and MPXA. The second word parameter is error code, left 4 bits are severity code. The third word is a code. The right 8 bits tell type of block to flag status in same code as "load computed value", with addition of 2 - redundant items. The left byte tells offset of status word within specified block. The fourth word parameter is the error count comparison limit.

An OP code of 0 is a branch flag. The byte parameter is 0, to indicate an intra-definition transfer point, 1 to indicate a new definition (stack is to be set empty), and #FF to indicate end of list.

When a condition is in error, examine two "ignore" tables. One will contain antenna addresses, and if the antenna in question is found in this table, all errors from that antenna, except severity 4, will be ignored. The second table will have a condition specified by complete DCS address - Antenna Address, DSA, MPXA, and if the full associated address is in this table, the error will be ignored.

When a condition is in error, examine the cal indicators (SCB word 10) for 'C' or 'T' to indicate cal mode or test mode respectively, and set the flag appropriately. Cal mode status is changed only for Cal observations and only if the bit in the flag command is set - otherwise flags go only in the 'general observation' byte. For test observations the test flags only are set.

When a message is to be produced, first search a message table to see if the fault message has been written lately. If not, use the error code to read a sector of a disk file which will contain two 100 character messages, and print the line

'**(fault) faultcode--AntID--AntAddr--DSA-MPXA--(100charactermessage)'

where (fault) is WARNING
 FAULT Depending on
 FAILURE(Bell) severity code
 DANGER (Bell)

and enter the condition in the table - the entry is

Word 1	Ant Addr. DSA, MPXA
Word 2	Severity, error code
Word 3	Time of last occurrence (10 ^S of seconds)
Word 4	Time last message was printed

If the fault is already in the table, update the time and examine the time since last print. If this exceeds a time dependent on severity code as given below print

'**STILL**(fault)faultcode--AntID--AT Ant Addr--DSA-MPXA'

Severity	1	2	3	4
	m	m	m	s
Time	30	5	1	10

When a new entry is to be put into the table, and the table is full, the eldest entry (time since last occurrence) is to be removed.

A typical simple limit check - in this case check DS1, MPXA=#17 for valid range #3F00 to #4100 - would be coded, for example:

	G001	Start
	0100	Load
	0117	Point
}	0401	Duplicate
	0200	Load
	3F00	Value
	042C	>?
	0400	Swap (restores analog value to top of stack)
	0200	Load
	4100	Value
	042B	<?
	0426	OR

0700	Flag error
0117	Associated monitor point
200A	error code 10, severity 2
0B11	Flag IF A block
0000	not used

The bracketed commands above may be simply replaced by

0600	Compare with limits
3F00	lower limit
4100	upper limit