Digital Equipment Corporation Maynard, Massachusetts

PDP-8
Maintenance Manual


DECtape Controller

# PDP-8 TC08 <br> DECTAPE CONTROLLER MAINTENANCE MANUAL 

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## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

| 1.1 | The Type TC08 and TC08N Controllers | $1-1$ |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| 1.2 | The TU55 and TU56 Transports | $1-1$ |
| 1.3 | Installation and Environmental Requirements | $1-3$ |

## CHAPTER 2 THEORY OF OPERATION

2.1 DECtape Recording Format 2-1
2.2 DECtape Data Format 2-2
2.2.1 Block Lengths 2-4
2.3 Bidirectional Reading and Writing 2-4
2.4 The TC08 Block Diagram 2-7
2.4.1 The Data Transfer Section 2-8
2.4.2 The Control Section 2-10
2.5 Functions and Flags of the Control Section 2-11
2.5.1 Functions of the Status A Register 2-11
2.5.2 Errors and Flags of the Status B Register 2-13
2.6 Programming DECtape 2-14
2.6.1 Example 1: Rewind Tape 2-15
2.6.2 Example 2: Find a Block 2-16
2.6.3 Summary of TC08 Timing Data 2-17
2.7 TC08 Operator Controls and Indicators 2-18

CHAPTER 3 TC08 - TC08N LOGICAL OPERATION
3.1 A Review of Magnetic Tape Recording 3-1
3.1.1 Magnetic Recording in General 3-1
3.1.2 The DECtape Read/Write Electronics 3-2
3.1.3 The DECtape Recording Technique 3-3
3.2 The DECtape System 3-5
3.2.1 The DECtape Controller 3-5
3.3 The TC08 System Timing 3-24
3.3.1 Write Timing and Mark Track 3-24
3.3.2 Search and Write Data or Write All 3-24

## CONTENTS (Cont)

Page
3.3.3 Read Data and Read All ..... 3-26
3.4 Move ..... 3-26
3.5 TC08 Versus TC08N ..... 3-26
CHAPTER 4 INSTALLATION
4.1 Unpacking ..... 4-1
4.1.1 Hardware ..... 4-1
4.1.2 Software ..... 4-1
4.1.3 Inspection ..... 4-5
4.2 Space and Environmental Requirements ..... 4-5
4.2.1 Space Requirements ..... 4-5
4.2.2 Environmental Requirements ..... 4-5
4.3 Power Requirements ..... 4-6
4.3.1 Power Supplies ..... 4-6
4.4 TC08 Cabling ..... 4-6
4.4.1 Cabling the TC08 to the Computer ..... 4-6
4.4.2 Cabling the TC08 to the TU55 or TU56 Transports ..... 4-6
4.4.3 Cabling the Display Panel ..... 4-7
4.5 Final Checkout ..... 4-8
CHAPTER 5 CHECKOUT AND MAINTENANCE
5.1 The TC08 Maintenance Concept ..... 5-1
5.2 Troubleshooting the TC08 ..... 5-1
5.3 TC08 Assembly ..... 5-2
5.3.1 Equipment ..... 5-2
5.3.2 Procedure ..... 5-3
5.4 TC08 Preliminary Checkout and Calibration ..... 5-4
5.5 TC08 Diagnostic Testing ..... 5-6
5.5.1 Diagnostics ..... 5-6
5.5.2 Testing the Mark Track Decoder ..... 5-7
5.6 DECtape Preventive Maintenance ..... 5-7
5.6.1 Handling Magnetic Tape ..... 5-7
5.6.2 Cleaning DECtape Reels ..... 5-8

## CONTENTS (Cont)

Page
5.6.3 Storing Tapes ..... 5-9
5.6.4 Physical Distortion ..... 5-9
5.6.5 Accidental Erasure or Saturation ..... 5-9
5.6.6 Head Care and Head Life ..... 5-10
5.7 Module and Accessory Warranties ..... 5-10
5.7.1 Type B, R, W, M, K and A Modules ..... 5-10
5.7.2 System Modules ..... 5-11
5.7.3 Shipping ..... 5-11
5.7.4 Systems ..... 5-11
5.7.5 Other Warranty Conditions ..... 5-12
5.8 Service Policy ..... 5-12
5.9 Spare Parts ..... 5-12
CHAPTER 6 TC08, TC08/N MODULES
6.1 DEC Logic ..... 6-1
6.2 Measurement Definitions ..... 6-3
6.3 Loading ..... 6-3
6.4 Module Characteristics ..... 6-3
6.4.1 G775 Connector Card ..... 6-3
6.4.2 G879 Transports Detector Module ..... 6-3
6.4.3 G888 Manchester Reader/Writer Module ..... 6-4
6.4.4 M100 Bus Data Interface ..... 6-5
6.4.5 M102 Device Selector ..... 6-7
6.4.6 M228 Mark Track Decoder ..... 6-8
6.4.7 W032 Connector ..... 6-9.
6.4.8 716 Indicator Supply ..... 6-9
6.4.9 M623 Bus Driver ..... 6-9
6.4.10 M633 Negative Bus Driver ..... 6-10
CHAPTER 7 DOCUMENTATION ..... 7-1

| Figure No. | Title | Art No. | Page |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1-1 | Type TU55 DECtape Transport | N96-07411 | 1-2 |
| 1-2 | Type TU56 DECtape Transport | 69-303-2-3 | 1-2 |
| 2-1 | DECtape Heads and Tape Channels | 08-0441 | 2-2 |
| 2-2 | DECtape Data Blocks | 08-0453 | 2-3 |
| 2-3 | DECtape Data Format | 08-0465 | 2-5 |
| 2-4 | Bidirectional Reading and Writing | 08-0442 | 2-6 |
| 2-5 | TC08 Data Transfer Section | 08-0439 | 2-8 |
| 2-6 | TC08 Control Section | 08-0440 | 2-9 |
| 2-7 | The Indicator Panel | 69-338-12-1 | 2-18 |
| 3-1 | Simplified Diagram of the Magnetic Recording Process | 08-0458 | 3-2 |
| 3-2 | DECtape Read/Write Electronics and Waveforms | 08-0451 | 3-4 |
| 3-3 | The TC08 DECtape Controller Block Diagram | 08-0430 | 3-6 |
| 3-4 | Command Register | 08-0443 | 3-7 |
| 3-5a | Command Register Timing with PDP-8/L | 08-0433 | 3-9 |
| 3-5b | Command Register Timing with PDP-8 | 08-0434 | 3-9 |
| 3-5c | Command Register Timing with PDP-8/I | 08-0435 | 3-9 |
| 3-6 | Timing Generator | 08-0449 | 3-11 |
| 3-7 | The Counters | 08-0448 | 3-12 |
| 3-8 | The Window Register and State Generator | 08-0447 | 3-13 |
| 3-9 | Data Buffer | 08-0445 | 3-16 |
| 3-10 | The Longitudinal Parity Buffer | 08-0446 | 3-17 |
| 3-11 | The I/O Control | 08-0444 | 3-18 |
| 3-12 | The I/O Control Timing | 08-0466 | 3-19 |
| 3-13 | The DECtape Flag | 08-0432 | 3-20 |
| 3-14 | The Write Enable Flag | 08-0450 | 3-20 |
| 3-15 | Status B Logic of the Error Flags (2 Sheets) | 08-0459 | 3-22 |
| 3-16 | Write Timing and Mark Track Timing Diagram | 04-0436 | 3-25 |
| 3-17 | Timing Diagram for Driving Search Write Data or Write All | 08-0438 | 3-27 |
| 3-18 | Timing Diagram for Read Data and Read All | 08-0437 | 3-29 |
| 4-1a | H950 Frame |  | 4-2 |
| 4-1b | H950 Frame, Dimension Diagram | 08-0457 | 4-3 |

## ILLUSTRATIONS (Cont)

| Figure No. | Title | Art No. | Page |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4-2 | DECtape System in Cabinet | N96-07411 | 4-4 |
| 4-3 | DECtape Cabies | 08-0452 | 4-7 |
| 6-1 | Voltage Spectrum of Negative Logic Systems | 08-0462 | 6-1 |
| 6-2 | Voltage Spectrum of TTL Logic | 08-0463 | 6-2 |
| 6-3 | Voltage Spectrum for Positive PDP-8 I/O Bus Logic | 08-0464 | 6-2 |
| 6-4 | The G775 Connector Card Logic Symbol | 08-0460 | 6-3 |
| 6-5 | The G879 Transport Detector Module | 08-0456 | 6-4 |
| 6-6 | G879 Application | 08-0454 | 6-4 |
| 6-7 | The G888 Reader/Writer | 08-0455 | 6-4 |
| 6-8 | The M100 Bus Data Interface Module, Logic Diagram | 08-0428 | 6-6 |
| 6-9 | The M102 Device Selector | 08-0431 | 6-7 |
| 6-10 | M623 Driver | 08-0426 | 6-10 |
| 6-11 | M633 Negative Bus Driver | 08-0427 | 6-11 |
| TABLES |  |  |  |
| 2-1 | Complements |  | 2-7 |
| 2-2 | Status A-bit Assignments |  | 2-10 |
| 2-3 | DECtape Instructions |  | 2-11 |
| 2-4 | The TC08 Indicator Panel |  | 2-18 |
| 3-1 | Mark Track and Window Codes |  | 3-15 |
| 3-2 | The Error Flags |  | 3-21 |
| 4-1 | TC08 Software |  | 4-5 |
| 4-2 | DECtape Cabies |  | 4-5 |
| 4-3 | TC08 or TC08N to the PDP-8, 8/I, or 8/L Cabling |  | 4-6 |
| 4-4 | Cabling Between the Controller and Transports |  | 4-7 |
| 4-5 | Cabling Between the Controller and Display Panel |  | 4-8 |
| 5-1 | Voltage Test Points |  | 5-3 |
| 5-2 | The Indicator Cables |  | 5-3 |
| 5-3 | Computer and Transport Cables |  | 5-4 |
| 5-4 | The Switch Register Bits |  | 5-5 |
| 5-5 | Visual Inspection Checklist |  | 5-8 |
| 5-6 | Recommended TC08, TC08/N Spares |  | 5-12 |
| 7-1 | TC08, TC08/N Signals |  | 7-1 |
| 7-2 | Engineering Drawings |  | 7-7 |

This manual has been written to explain the operation of the TC08 DECtape controller and to detail the fundamentals of its design. It is suitable for programmers familiar with the PDP-8 computer and practicing engineers experienced in digital systems. It assumes that the reader is familiar with the following publications:

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TU55 DECtape 55 DEC-00-HZTA-D
PDP-8 User's Handbook
Logic Handbook C-105
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The manual is divided into seven chapters.

Chapter 1 introduces DECtape, the TC08 Controller, and the TU55 and TU56 DECtape Transports.

Chapter 2 covers the DECtape recording format, the system block diagram, and its instruction set. This chapter provides data required for a user or programmer.

Chapter 3 covers the basic architecture of the TC08. Detailed block diagrams, prints, and timing charts are presented with narrative.

Chapter 4 provides instructions for installing the TC08, and Chapter 5 outlines maintenance procedures.

Chapter 6 describes the DEC modules used in the TC08 but not explained in the Logic Handbook.

Chapter 7 contains the technical documentation for the TC08.


TC08 DECtape Controller

## CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

DECtape is a 10 -track digital magnetic tape recording system designed and produced by Digital Equipment Corporation to store large amounts of digital information for computers. The system is divided into distinct units - a controller and number of transports. Each family of DEC computers uses its own DECtape controller to drive up to 8 DECtape transports. The PDP-8 family uses the TC08 or the TC08N controliers for its positive logic or negative logic PDP-8 computers, respectively. These controllers will operate either the TU55 or the TU56 tape transports (see Figures 1-1 and 1-2).

This manual explains the operation of the TC08 and TC08N controllers for the user, and details the fundamentals of their logic design as a guide to maintenance personnel.

### 1.1 THE TYPE TC08 AND TCO8N CONTROLLERS

The TC08 and TC08N are the primary controls for up to 8 TU55 or 4 TU56 tape transports. These controls handle data and command signals for the PDP-8 family of computers through their I/O Bus or 3-cycle data break, and supply read/write circuitry, block format detection, and error detection logic to each transport. The TC08 is used with computers in the PDP-8 series which have positive logic I/O systems, and the TC08N is used with computers in the PDP-8 series which have negative logic I/O systems. The differences between the two controls are elementary; unless otherwise specified, any description of one applies to the other.

### 1.2 THE TU55 AND TU56 TRANSPORTS

Each transport contains motor, motor drivers, tape heads, and the logic necessary for selection, motion control, and data transfer.

The TU55 transport consists of one tape drive capable of handling 260 -foot reels of $3 / 4$-inch, 1 -mil magnetic tape. The bits are recorded at a density of $350 \pm 55$ bits per track inch. The tape moves at a speed of $93 \pm 12$ inches per second; with 3 data tracks available, an effective information transfer rate of $350 \times 93 \times 3=97650$ bits per second is achieved. Individual 12-bit words which are assembled by the TC08 control unit arrive at the computer approximately every 132 microseconds. The computer must accept this data in 20 microseconds. Data is stored in individually addressable blocks, which can be specified by the user and written into or read from in either direction of tape motion. Up to 190,00012 -bit words can be stored on a ree! of tape.


Figure 1-1 Type TU55 DECtape Transport


Figure 1-2 Type TU56 DECtape Transport

ȚThe Tu5ó transport consists of ťwo identical trape drives, each like the Tu55.

### 1.3 INSTALLATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

The TC08 controllers and both types of transports will mount in standard 19-inch cabinets. Cables from the PDP-8 I/O Bus and the three-cycle data break facility are connected to the controller, and two cables are chained from the controller through each transport to supply control and data information there. The system will operate in a temperature range of $60^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ to $80^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ at relative humidities of from $40 \%$ to $60 \%$. These restrictions are due to the magnetic tape itself.

Chapter 4 describes installation procedures in detail.

The purpose of Chapter 2 is to describe the operational nature of DECtape. It covers the recording format for data and control information, outlines and explains the system block diagram, and presents the instruction set used by the PDP-8 computer to control and communicate with the TC08 and the TU55 or TU56 transports.

### 2.1 DECTAPE RECORDING FORMAT

Two of the features of DECtape mentioned in Chapter 1, individually addressable blocks and bidirectional reading and writing, stem from the recording format used by DECtape. This format affects not only data, but also instructions te!ling DECtape what to do with the data.

Both the data and the instructions are stored in or read from the magnetic tape through read/write heads which magnetize the tape in one of two directions to represent a " 0 " or a " 1 ", and read the same information back. There are ten such heads distributed along the width of the tape, each head covering a narrow path called a tape track or channel. Figure 2-1 shows a tape stretched over the ten heads to indicate how the width is divided into ten tracks.

The ten tracks and heads are divided functionally into five pairs. The two outside tracks are called timing channels. On these tracks signals are prerecorded at a fixed frequency, and used to strobe information into or from the other tracks. The tape controller synchronizes on these pulses. The two tracks next to the timing channels are called mark tracks. These record the instructions which tell the TC08 controller where the tape is and what type of data is stored in the associated information tracks. The information or data tracks are placed in the middle of the tape where the effect of skew is at a minimum. Like the timing and mark tracks, the data channels are paired up.

The reliability of this recording/reading system is high because the 10 tracks are divided into five pairs of counterparts. That is, corresponding heads for each track are wired in series and record and write the same information. During reading, the analog sum of the two heads is used to detect the correct value of the bit. Therefore a bit cannot be misread until the noise on the tape is sufficient to change the polarity of the sum of the signals being read. During writing, corresponding heads record the same information.

NOTE THAT EACH PAIR OF HEADS IS ACTUALLY WIRED IN SERIES,AND TWO WIRES ARE RUN TO A DIFFERENTIAL AMPLIFIER. FOR SIMPLICITY A SINGLE WIRE FOR EACH PAIR IS SHOWN HERE


Figure 2-1 DECtape Heads and Tape Channels

In summary, the five pairs of tracks consist of the timing tracks used to strobe other tracks, the mark tracks which store instructions, and three data tracks. A 12-bit PDP-8 word, then, uses four slots of 3 data bits each.

### 2.2 DECTAPE DATA FORMAT

A 260-foot reel of DECtape, shown in Figure 2-2, is divided into three zones; two end zones and the recording zone. The end zones, about 10 feet long, are used to wind the tape around the heads and onto the take-up reel. They never contain data.

The recording zone is divided into blocks. Each block will store a specified number of data words and several control words. The number of data words a block will store is determined when the tape is preformatted with its timing and mark track. In standard format, ${ }^{1474}{ }_{10}$ blocks, each with $129{ }_{10}{ }^{12 \text {-bit words, can be stored on a }}$ $260-\mathrm{ft}$ reel. The total length of the tape is equivalent to 884,736 data lines which can be divided into any number of blocks up to 4096 .


Figure 2-2 DECtape Data Blocks

Recording information on tape in blocks permits digital data to be partitioned into blocks of words which are interrelated and at the same time reduces the amount of storage area which would be needed to address individual words.

A simple example of such a partition is the coding of a program. A program can be stored and retrieved from magnetic tape in a single block format because it is not necessary to be able to retrieve only a subgroup of the coding. The computer usually wants the complete program, or none of it. It is necessary, however, to be able to identify and retrieve different programs, since they may not be related. They would be stored in different blocks of tape.

The data stored on a DECtape reel is organized into such blocks of data, with the following advantages:
a. Each block is numbered, and can be identified by the computer during a random search.
b. Errors can be detected within a block, using serial parity checking.
c. A block can be read or written while the tape is travelling in either direction.

A block is identified by a number recorded during tape formatting on the data tracks just before and after the area where data is stored in the block. This number is recorded at either end of a block so that it can be read from either direction.

Errors in reading or writing data are detected by calculating the parity of each data track as the block is written, and recording the checksum at the end of the block. When the block is read, the same parity checksum is calculated, and the result is compared with the original. If they compare favorably, the transfer is assumed to be valid. Otherwise, an error has occurred and the computer is notified. Since reading and writing must occur in either direction, the checksum must be recorded at each end of the block.

The average access time to any block is decreased if a block can be written or read from either direction. This is facilitated by writing the block number and leaving room for a parity checksum at either end of each block. However, there are further complications if a block is read in a direction opposite to the one from which it was written. The complications are covered in the next section.

The purpose of the pre-recorded mark track now becomes apparent. The code of this track identifies the information of the three data tracks as being a block number, a parity checksum, or data proper. In each case, the controller responds appropriately by either transferring the block number to the computer for identification, calculating the checksum, or transferring the data. The mark track must also perform several other functions, detecting such things as the end of tape zones, the beginning and end of blocks, and no operation (delaying) conditions. The various functions and their codes are summarized in Figure 2-3. Note that data is stored in cells which are 6 lines and $3 \times 6=18$ bits long. This will affect the acceptable length of a block, since it must be in increments of cells divisible by 12 .

### 2.2.1 Block Lengths

DEC provides a program called the DECtape formatter which is used to write the timing track, mark track, and block numbers onto a reel of DECtape. The formatter will allow the user to specify the number of data words he wants in each block within the constraints of a given formula. The formatter is described in TC08 DECtape Formatter, DEC-08-EUFA-D.

### 2.3 BIDIRECTIONAL READING AND WRITING

The freedom to read or write on DECtape in either direction raises some interesting problems. For example, if a bit is written as a 1 while the tape is travelling from left to right, then it would be read as such when the tape is travelling in the same direction during the read operation. Otherwise, that same bit is seen as a zero. Further, a complete word or mark track instruction read one way would be assembled in reverse order when read the other. Figure 2-4 illustrates this process. Here, a 42 read from left to right becomes a $56_{8}$ if read in the reverse direction.

However, the problem is less complicated than it appears. $56_{8}$ represents the obverse complement of 42 ; every number has one such counterpart, as shown in Table 2-1.

Data read into the computer in the opposite direction from that in which it was recorded is then in its obverse complement form. It can be reconverted by means of a simple algorithm. It is necessary only that the user be aware of how the data was recorded and read.

| REV END | interblock <br> sYnc | $\begin{aligned} & \text { FORWARD RE } \\ & \text { BLOCK MARK } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { EVERSE GUARD } \\ & \text { MARK } \end{aligned}$ | Lock | REVERSE PCC MARK | REVERSE FiNAL MARK | REVERSE PREFINAL MARK | data MARK | $\begin{aligned} & \text { DATA A } \\ & \text { MARK } \end{aligned}$ | PREFINAL | $\underset{\text { MARAL }}{\text { FNAL }}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { PCC } \\ \text { MARK } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { REVERSE } \\ & \text { LOCK MARK } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { GUARD } \\ & \text { MARK } \end{aligned}$ | REVERSE BLOKKMARK | interbiock sYnc in | ${ }_{\text {END }}^{\text {MARK }}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 55 | 25 | 26 | 32 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 70 | 70 | 73 | 73 | 73 | 73 | 51 | 45 | 25 | 22 |  |
| 101101 | 010101 |  | 011010 | 001000 | 000 | 001000 | 000 | 111000 | 11000 | 11 | 11 | $\begin{aligned} & 111011 \\ & \text { PARATYY } \\ & \text { STORED } \\ & \text { HERE } \end{aligned}$ | 111011 | 01 | 100101 | 010101 | 0 |  |

Name

## REVERSE END MARK

25
INTERBLOCK SYNC

26
FORWARD BLOCK MARK

32 REVERSE GUARD MARK
10
10

10

10 REVERSE FINAL MARK
LOCK MARK
REVERSE PCC MARK reverse prefnal mark

Function
This code identifies the end zone that the tape transpor is leaving as it moves toward the data block zone. No action is taken by the controller.

Code 25 is another no-op code which lies between blocks and for several feet on the inside of the end zones. It allows for turnaround time when reading the first and last block, and is used by the controller to synchronize its timing logic between blocks.

In this cell the number assigned the block by the formatter is stored. When the computer is searching for a block, it transfers this number into memory and examines it. When code 26 is decoded by the controller, it knows that the block number is ready and informs the computer. These two cells are no-op conditions which give the computer time to decide on what to do with the block has identified.
This is the last cell before a data cell. It is used to initiate the parity checksum logic. If the computer were writing, the first 12 -bit word to be written is transferred to the controller during this cell, and every 4 lines thereafter.
These two codes indicate the first and second data words These two codes indicate the first and second data words
respectively. Otherwise they have no special significance.

## Nam

DATA MARK

PREFINAL MARK $\}$ FINAL MARK $\}$ PCC MARK

REVERSE LOCK MARK GUARD MARK
REVERSE BLOCK MARK

INTERBLOCK SYNC
END MARK

Function
The 70 code simply indicares that a data word is con tained in the data tracks. The controller logic contin ually checks to see that the mark track is coded

These codes indicate that the last two words of data are being transferred.

The parity checksum which was being calculated during the transfers is either deposited here during writing or compared during reading. If there is an error, the com puter is notified at this point.

These are no-op spaces which become useful when the rape is operating in the reverse direction.

The block number is stored here to be picked up by the computer when the tape is traveling in the reverse

Has the same function as its counterpart at the beginning of the tape.
When this code comes up, the program is informed that it has just run out of tape and that it had better do some thing about it! Note that it is the obverse complement of 55 .


Figure 2-4 Bidirectional Reading and Writing

Table 2-1
Complements

| Number (Octal) | Obverse Complement (Octal) |
| :---: | :---: |
| 0 | 7 |
| 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 6 |
| 5 | 2 |
| 6 | 4 |
| 7 | 0 |

There is a problem with the information on the mark track, however; the mark track must identify data or control words no matter which way the tape travels, and these codes should read the same. Fortunately, some codes map into themselves as obverse complement. (For example, the obverse complement of 70 is 70 itself.) Such codes are used by the mark track to avoid the obverse problem. Note from Figure 2-3 that if the tape were traveliing in the opposite direction, and ali mark track codes were transferred to their obverse complement, the mark track read head would see exactly the same series of codes.

By using these principles, DECtape has been designed to be read or written in either direction, in randomly selected data blocks at high reliability. The programmer must be aware of how data was recorded in order to ensure that he has the data or its obverse complement; the TC08 controller handles all other problems.

A more detailed explanation of how DECtape actually records, and the nature of the instructions in the mark track will be covered in later chapters. This information is not needed to use DECtape.

### 2.4 THE TC08 BLOCK DIAGRAM

The TC08 is studied in two parts; the data transfer section and the control section, shown in Figures 2-5 and 2-6. Through the data transfer logic, the TC08 manipulates data in twelve-bit bytes between computer memory and its data buffer, using the three-cycle data break facility. Through the control section, the software operating system initializes the controller by selecting the transport with which it wishes to deal, the direction of tape motion of the transport, the function it is to perform, and the mode in which it will operate. The control also monitors the system for errors, and sets up interrupt flags to notify the computer when either an error has occurred or the function specified is finished.


Figure 2-5 TC08 Data Transfer Section

### 2.4.1 The Data Transfer Section

The data transfer section is not directly available to the software operating system; once the controller has been initiated, the data section detects the position of the tape and carries out the specified operation. If the operation is to read data from the computer and store it on tape, then a three-cycle data break request is initiated and the correct block of words is transferred to the data buffer when the window register detects that block position on the tape. At the same time, the data section calculates the parity checksum in the longitudinal parity buffer, so that this sum can be checked at the end of the block.

If a write operation was specified, then the window register notifies the control when the first data word of the block is ready. This word is assembled into the data buffer; when the data buffer is full, the control requests that its contents be transferred to computer memory through the three-cycle data channel. Simultaneously, the parity checksum is calculated and deposited at the end of the block.

During a read operation, the computer must take the word in about $30 \mu \mathrm{~s}$. During a write operation, the computer must supply a word in $16 \mu \mathrm{~s}$.


| STATUS <br> REGISTER <br> B BITS | FUNCTION |
| :--- | :--- |
| 0 | SET IF ANY ONE OF THE ERRORS DESCRIBED BY <br> STATUS B BITS 1-5 OCCURS |
| 1 | MARK TRACK ERROR |
| 2 | END OF TAPE ERROR |
| 3 | SELECT ERROR |
| 4 | PARITY ERROR |
| 5 | TIMING ERROR |
| $6,7,8$ | MEMORY FIELD SET FROM THE ACCUMULATOR |
| 9,10 | NOT USED |
| 41 | DECTAPE FLAG SET AT THE COMPLETION OF <br> A SELECTED FUNCTION |

NOTE:
a bit of each status register is set by its CORRESPONDING BIT IN THE ACCUMULATOR WHEN
the proper load status iot is issued.
SIMILARLY, WHEN THE READ STATUS IOT IS ISSUED,
EACH BIT OF THE STATUS REGISTER ADDRESSED
IS READ INTO ITS CORRESPONDING ACCUMULATOR BIT.

08.0440

Figure 2-6 TC08 Control Section

These operations presumed that the software operating system had initiated its word count (location 7754) and current address (location 7755) to the block length and first address (minus one) to or from which the data was to be transferred.

### 2.4.2 The Control Section

The control section consists of two registers, status $A$ and status $B$, and the device select logic. Status $A$ register accepts commands, and status B reports the system status. The device select logic is used to clear, load, test, or read these registers under IOT control from the computer. Figure 2-6 summarizes the function of each bit in these registers, Table 2-2 expands on the figure, and Table 2-3 lists the IOT instructions and explains the use of each.

Table 2-2
Status A-bit Assignments


Table 2-3
DECfape instructions

DTRA (read status register A)

DTCA (clear status register A)

DTXA (load status register A)

DTSF (skip on flags)

DTRB (read status register B)

DTLB (load memory field of status register $B$ )

Octal
Code

Operation

The contents of status register $A$ are loaded into the accumulator by an OR transfer.

Status register A is cleared. The DECtape and error flags are undisturbed.

Bits $0-9$ of the status register are complemented if their corresponding bits in the accumulator are set to a 1. In other words, the exclusive OR between corresponding bits is loaded into the status $A$ register, and bits 10 and 11 of the accumulator are sampled to control the clearing of the error and DECtape flags, respectively. Loading status register A from AC 0 through 9 establishes the transport unit select, motion control, and function, and enables or disables the DECtape control flag to request a program interript as described in DTRA. The accumulator is cleared.

The contents of both the error and DECtape flags are sampled. If any flag is set, the contents of the program counter are incremented by one to skip the next sequential instruction.

The contents of status register $B$ are loaded into the accumulator by an inclusive OR transfer. The bit assignments are as follows.
AC0 = Error flag (EF)
$\mathrm{ACl}=$ Mark track error (MK TRK)
AC2 $=$ End-of-tape error (END)
AC3 = Select error (SE)
AC4 = Parity error (PE)
AC5 = Timing error (TIM)
AC6-8 = Memory field (MF)
AC9-10 = Not used
AC11 = DECtape flag (DTF)
The memory fieid portion of the status $B$ register is loaded from accumulator bits 6-8. The accumulator is cleared, and the error flags are left undisturbed.

### 2.5 FUNCTIONS AND FLAGS OF THE CONTROL SECTION

Although the instruction set of the DECtape system is simple, the effects of these instructions are not. In this section, each of the functions that the TC08 will perform and the possible results of the operation are described in detail.

### 2.5.1 Functions of the Status $A$ Register

2.5.1.1 Transport Unit Select - Each unit can be dialed into a particular selection address by means of a switch on the front of the transport. When the octal code matches the selection address, only that transport responds to the TC08 controller.
2.5.1.2 The Motions - GO asserted by loading a 1 into bit 4 allows the selected transport to move either forward (clockwise) or reverse, according to the contents of bit 3. If STOP is selected, then the machine does not move in any direction, or ceases to rotate in the direction it is moving. It should be noted that each transport remembers the motion it is selected to perform, and if the TC08 controller selects another transport without stopping the first, then the transport's memory keeps it moving. The functions are not performed when this transport is not selected, however.

### 2.5.1.3 The Modes - Associated with each of the functions are two modes, called normal and continuous.

 The difference in response for each mode varies with the functions, as explained in the following paragraphs.
### 2.5.1.4 The Functions -

a. Move - The move function is used to rewind tape. Code 000 of bits 6, 7, and 8 initiates tape motion in the selected direction, provided GO is also on. The mark track is read, but only the end of tape instruction is decoded. End of tape posts an error flag and causes an interrupt to the PDP-8. If the tape control is unselected but not stopped, it continues to run; however, the end of tape is not detected. The state of mode is irrelevant.
b. Search - The search function is used to search for blocks. When a block number is detected by the mark track, the three-cycle data break control transfers the number into the address specified by the current address register. The current address register is not incremented, so that successive block numbers always go to the same address. The word count register is incremented, however, as each block number is passed. If the mode is set to normal, the DECtape flag is set each time a block number is detected. This causes an interrupt, and the program can identify the block number. In continuous mode, no interrupt occurs until the word count register overflows. This search operation is most efficient when both modes are used in the following way:
(1) The current block number is detected in normal mode.
(2) The difference between it and the desired block number is computed, and the direction corrected, if necessary.
(3) The two's complement of the difference is loaded into the word count register.
(4) The TC08 is changed to continuous mode.
(5) On the next interrupt, the transport is over the desired block. The block number is in the address specified by the current address register.
2.5.1.5 Read Data - This function reads data in either direction and transfers blocks of data into core memory, with the transfer controlled by tape format. In the normal mode, DTF is set at the end of each block, causing a program interrupt. In the cont inuous mode, transfer stops and the DTF is set when the word count overflows; however, the remainder of the block in which the overflow occurred is read for parity checking, after which the DTF is set.
2.5.1.6 Read All - This function allows the reading of ail data bits on tape after the tape motion attains speed. The three information tracks are continuously read and transferred to the computer. The mark track is used only to check for mark track and end of tape errors. During the normal mode, the DECtape flag is set at each data transfer. During continuous mode, the DECtape flag is set only when a word count overflow occurs.

### 2.5.1.7 Write Data - This function is used to write blocks of data in either direction, with the transfer con-

 trolled by the standard tape format. When a word count overflow occurs during the writing of a block of data, zeros are written in all the remaining lines of tape until the end of a block; the checksum over the entire block is then written. The DTF is set in a manner similar to that for the Read Data function.2.5.1.8 Write All - This function allows the writing of all bits on tape even though the information is not in the standard tape format. The mark track is used only to check for mark track and end of tape errors. The DTF is set for the same conditions described for Read All. This mode is used to write block numbers on tape
2.5.1.9 Write Timing and Mark Tracks - When the controller is put into this mode, it is ready to format a DECtape reel by adding the timing marks and the mark track. In normal mode, the DECtape flag is posted after each word is transferred to the mark track (every four lines); in continuous mode it is posted as soon as the word count overflows. A complete description of the program is given in the TOG-8 DECtape formatter description, available from the DEC program library.
2.5.1.10 - Enable to Interrupt - The TC08 control has an Enable-to-Interrupt (ENI) function which permits the program to remove the TC08 from the program interrupt of the PDP-8 processor. This bit activates it.

### 2.5.2 Errors and Flags of the Status B Register

This register contains 6 bits of error status information, 3 memory field bits, and the DECiape flag bit. Their functions are explained in the following paragraphs.

> 2.5.2.1 Error Flag - Bit 0 - This flag is set if any one of the five following error flags come up. These conditions stop transport motion, except for the parity error (bit 4 ), and all of them cause a program interrupt if the facility is enabled.
2.5.2.2 Mark Track Error - Bit 1 - The output from the mark track instruction register is tested every time an instruction should appear. If one does not, this indicates that the mark track is not recorded properly, and that an error has occurred. Bit I and, therefore, bit 0 are posted.
2.5.2.3 End of Tape Error - If the instruction register of the mark track decodes an end zone indicator, then bit 2 is set and, therefore, bit 0 . A subsequent program interrupt stimulates the computer to find out what happened.
2.5.2.4 Select Error - This flag examines and compares various switches and status A functions, and will detect four incongruous combinations. These are:
a. When the transport unit select code loaded into the status A register specifies either more than one transport or none at all. This occurs when two selected transports are set to the same number, or none is set to the correct code.
b. When a write function is specified while the WRITE ENABLE/WRITE LOCK switch on the selected transport is set to the WRITE LOCK position, which inhibits writing.
c. When bits 111 are set into the function bits 6,7 , and 8 of status $A$, indicating a nonexistent function.
d. When the WRTM/NORMAL switch and the function selected do not coincide (e.g., trying to format on NORMAL).
2.5.2.5 Parity Error - This error occurs if the longitudinal parity buffer shows an error at the end of a block during a read data function. In normal mode, the error flag is set when the DECtape flag is set.

### 2.5.2.6 Timing Error - This flag monitors possible timing errors, which are:

a. If the data break request is not answered in $30 \mu \mathrm{~s}$, some of the data is lost.
b. If the DECtape flag is not cleared by the program before the control attempts to set it again, the condition which set it was not serviced, and was probably lost.
c. If the read data or write data function is loaded into the status A register while the read heads are over a data section of the block, the complete block can not be transferred, and an error condition is present.
2.5.2.7 The Memory Field - This three-bit register is set by the computer to specify the memory field to or from which the data will be transferred via the memory extension control.

### 2.5.2.8 DECtape Flag - This flag, which is constantly referred to in the function descriptions, is set after

 specified operations are completed. It can be cleared by setting a zero into status A bit 11, and will cause an interrupt if that facility is enabled by status $A$ bit 9 .
### 2.6 PROGRAMMING DECTAPE

In this section, a number of simple programming examples are given to illustrate the principles outlined earlier. The PDP-8 programming library makes available many subroutines which are easily incorporated into a user program, so that the user rarely needs to develop his own DECtape handler.

In each example, it is assumed that there are no other programs in memory, and that the DECtape being used has been formatted. The examples are written in PDP-8 Assembler language .

### 2.6.1 Example 1: Rewind Tape

Assume that a DECtape transport number 5 has run into the forward end zone and must ie rewound to the reverse end zone. A subroutine to do it looks like this:

| Tag | Instruction | Remarks |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| RWND, | 0 |  |
|  | CLA | /Clear the accumulator |
|  | TAD (5604 | /Get the status A code |
|  | ION | /Turn on interrupt |
|  | DTCA | /Clear status A register |
|  | DTXA ION JMP I RWND | /Load status A with 5604 <br> /Turn on the PI facility <br> /Go back to main program |
| 0 | 0 | /This is the interrupt |
| 1 | JMP FLAG | /service routine. |
| FLAG, | DTSF | /This is the skip chain |
|  | JMP. + 2 | /where the DECtape flag |
|  | JMS DECTPE | /is discovered. The |
|  | HLT | /program halts if the DECtape flag is not |
|  |  | $/$ set . When the program was started, |
|  |  | /it was assumed that no other device |
|  |  | /was on. The halt indicates an erroneous |
|  |  | /interrupt by a truant device. |
| DECTPE, | 0 |  |
|  | CLA | /Clear accumulator |
|  | DTRB | /Read status B |
|  | AND (1000 | /Mask out all but the end of tape error |
|  | SNA | /Skip if a bit is in the AC |
|  | HLT | /See following note |
|  | CLA | /Clear the accumulator |
|  | TAD 10600 | /Get the new status A function |
|  | DTXA | /Exclusive OR it onto the |
|  |  | /status A register. This |
|  |  | /will simply clear all flags, |
|  |  | /stop the DECtape and set its motion to forward. |
|  | JMP I RWND | /Go back to the mainsubroutine. |

## NOTE

During a move function, only an end of tape error can arise. If an interrupt occurs and no such error is posted, a malfunction is indicated, and the program is halted.

### 2.6.2 Example 2: Find a Block

If transport number 3 is stopped near the forward end zone and must be moved to block number 5 (the current address register is CA and the word count register WC), the procedure is to put the controller into search mode normal, find out where the unit is, subtract five from that block number, set the two's complement of the result into the WC register, and place the controller into search continuous mode. The next interrupt should occur when the tape reaches block number 5 . The subroutine is called SRCH.

| Tag | Instruction | Remarks |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SRCH, | 0 |  |
|  | ION | /Turn on the PI |
|  | CLA |  |
|  | TAD (3614 | /Status A code for search, etc. |
|  | DTCA | /Clear status A |
|  | DTXA | /Load status A |
|  | JMP I SRCH | /Return to subroutine |
| 0 , | 0000 |  |
| 1, | JMP FLAG |  |
| FLAG, | DTSF | /This is the same skip |
|  | JMP. + 2 | /chain coding as in the |
|  | JMS TAPE | /previous example. |
|  | HLT |  |
| TAPE, | CLA |  |
|  | DTRB | /Read status B |
|  | DCA TEMP | /Store it away |
|  | AND (0001 | /Mask for DECtape flag |
|  | SZA | /Flag is on |
|  | HLT | /No flag - something is wrong |
|  | CLA |  |
|  | TAD TEMP | /Return status B |


| Tag | Instruction | Remarks |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | AND (1000 | /Test for the error flag |
|  | SZA |  |
|  | JMP ERROR | /Go to error subroutine |
|  | JMP BLKNO | /Go to subroutine to get block number |
| BLKNO, | CLA |  |
|  | TAD I CA | /Get block number |
|  | TAD (7773 | /Test for block 5 |
|  | SNA | /Skip if not zero |
|  | JMS WRT | /This is block 5 -start writing |
|  | CLA | /Not block 5 |
|  | TAD (5 | /Get a 5 |
|  | CIA | /Get 2's complement of 5 |
|  | TAD I CA | /Add present block number |
|  | CIA | /2's complement it |
|  | DCA WC | Put result in WC |
|  | CLA | /Clear accumulator |
|  | TAD 10100 | /Get next status A setting |
|  | DTXA | /Exclusive OR into status register (continuous mode) |
|  | ION | /Turn on PI |
|  | JMP I SRCH | /Go back to main program. |

2.6.3 Summary of TC08 Timing Data (All times are $\pm 30 \%$ )

Operation
Time
Time to Answer Break Request
Data Break Transfer Rate
Word Transfer Rate
Block Transfer Rate
Start Time
Stop Time
Turn Around Time
Time to Change from Search to a Read or Write Function

Up to $33 \mu( \pm 30 \%)$
$4.5 \mu$ ( 3 cycles) per word
One 12-bit word every $133 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ ( $\pm 30 \%$ )
One 129 -word block every 25 ms ( $\pm 30 \%$ )
375 ms ( $\pm 20 \%$ )
$375 \mathrm{~ms}( \pm 20 \%)$
375 ms ( $\pm 20 \%$ )
$400 \mu \mathrm{~s}$

### 2.7 TC08 OPERATOR CONTROLS AND INDICATORS

The single switch, WRTM/NORMAL, and an array of lights are all that the operator of the TC08 controller need concern himself with. The operation of the transports is explained in their respective manuals. The TC08 switch, located on the left-hand side of the logic panel, puts the controller in write timing and mark track mode or else in normai, or every other mode, depending on the settings, SWTM or NORMAL respectively. Table 2-4 summarizes the function of each indicator. Figure 2-7 is a photograph of the indicator panel.


Figure 2-7 The Indicator Panel

Table 2-4
The TC08 Indicator Panel

| Indicator Name | Indicator Function |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| USR | The Unit Select Register specifies which transport is to be activated, according to the following table. |  |  |  |  |
|  | Bit State | 0 | 1 | 2 | Transport Selected |
|  | 0 |  | 0 |  | 8 or 0 |
|  | 1 |  | 0 |  | 1 |
|  | 2 |  | 1 |  | 2 |
|  | 3 | 0 | 1 |  | 3 |
|  | 4 |  | 0 |  | 4 |
|  | 5 |  | 0 |  | 5 |
|  | 6 |  | 1 | 0 | 6 |
|  | 7 | 1 | 1 |  | 7 |
| MR | The Motion Register specifies the three possible movements of the reel. These are: |  |  |  |  |
|  | Bit State |  |  |  | Function |
|  | 0 |  |  |  | STOP |
|  | 1 | 0 |  |  | GO REVERSE |
|  | 2 |  | 0 |  | STOP |
|  | 3 |  |  |  | GO FORWARD |

Table 2-4 (Cont)
The TC08 Indicator Panel

| Indicator Name | Indicator Function |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FR | This four-bit Function Register specifies one of seven possible operations in either of two modes. BIT 0 on a 0 -normal mode. <br> BIT 0 on a 1-continuous mode. |  |  |  |
|  | Bit State | 1203 |  | Function |
|  | 0 | 000 | MOVE |  |
|  | 1 | $\begin{array}{lll}0 & 0 & 1\end{array}$ | SEARCH |  |
|  | 2 | 010 | READ DATA |  |
|  | 3 | $\begin{array}{llll}0 & 1 & 1\end{array}$ | READ ALL |  |
|  | 4 | 100 | WRITE DATA |  |
|  | 5 | 1001 | WRITE ALL |  |
|  | 6 | 110 | WRITE Timing | AND MARK |
|  | 7 | 111 | UNUSED (Caus | ses select error) |
| ENI | Enable the interrupt when on indicates that the TC08 can cause a program interrupt when an error flag or the DECtape flag is set. |  |  |  |
| EF | This flag is set if any one of the five following error flags come up. These conditions stop transport motion, except for the parity error of bit 4, and all cause a program interrupt if the facility is enabled. |  |  |  |
| MK | The output from the mark track instruction register is tested every time an instruction appears. If no instruction appears, this indicates that the mark track is not recorded properly and therefore an error has occurred. MK and therefore EF are set. |  |  |  |
| END | If the instruction register of the mark track decodes an end zone indicator, this flag and EF are set. A subsequent program interrupt stimulates the computer to find out what happened. |  |  |  |
| SE | This flag examines and compares various switches and status A functions, and wili detect 4 incongruous combinations. These are: <br> a. When the transport unit select code loaded into the status $A$ register either specifies more than one transport or none at all. This occurs when two selected transports are set to the same number, or none is set to the correct code. <br> b. When a write function is specified while the WRITE ENABLE/WRITE LOCK switch on the selected transport is set to the WRITE LOCK position, which inhibits writing. <br> c. When bits 111 are set into the function bits 6,7 , and 8 of status $A$, indicating a nonexistent function. <br> d. When the switch WRTM/NORMAL and the function register do not coincide (i.e., trying to format on NORMAL). |  |  |  |

Table 2-4 (Cont)
The TC08 Indicator Panel

| Indicator Name | Indicator Function |
| :---: | :---: |
| PAR | This error occurs if the longitudinal parity buffer shows an error at the end of a block during a read data function. In normal mode, the error flag is set when the DECtape flag is set. In continuous mode the error is set after the word count overflows for the block it overflows in. The parity error flag cannot be set after the DECtape flag has has been set. |
| TIM | This flag monitors possible timing errors, which are: <br> a. If the data break request is not answered in $20 \mu \mathrm{~s}$, some of the data is lost. <br> b. If the DECtape flag is not cleared by the program before the control attempts to set it again, the condition which set it was not serviced, and was probably lost. <br> c. If the read data or write data function is loaded into the status $A$ register while the read heads are over a data section of the block, the complete block cannot be transferred, and an error condition is present. |
| MF | These three lights show the contents of the memory field register. |
| DTF | This light reflects the state of the DECtape flag. |
| DF | The Data Flag is set when the TC08 controller needs to transfer a data word through the three-cycle break. |
| W | This flag, when set, indicates that a write all function is occurring. |
| WC | The Word Count flag is set whenever the word count register overflows. |
| UTS | This Up-to-Speed flip-flop is set as soon as the tape transport reaches an acceptable speed. |
| STATE | These bits make up the TC08 state generator, a switched-tail ring counter, which steps from an idle state through five other states and back to idle as a block passes the tape heads. |
| BM | Block Mark is the first bit to which the state generator moves. It is set when forward block mark is in the data buffer. |
| RC | The Reverse Checksum state occurs when the Reverse PCC Mark cell is encountered. |
| D | The Data state starts with the first block that contains data (the Reverse Final Mark) and finishes when the next-to-last data block (the Prefinal Mark) passes the read heads. |
| F | The Final state occurs during the last cell which contains data (the Final Mark). |
| CK | The Checksum State occurs when the PCC Mark cell passes the heads. During this state, the checksum is deposited in the PCC Mark, if the TC08 is writing; it checks for a parity error, if the TC08 is in a read operation. |
| MC | These three bits represent a three-bit switched-tail counter composed of bits MC00, MC01, MC02. |
| DTB | The Data Buffer holds 12 bits of data on its way to or from the computer. |
| WB | The Write Buffer receives data from the data buffer. It feeds the transport during a write operation. |

Table 2-4 (Cont)
The TCO8 Indicator Panel

| Indicator Name | Indicator Function |
| :--- | :--- |
| LPB | The Longitudinal Parity Buffer calculates a checksum of data that is read from or <br> written to the magnetic tape. |
| CO, C1, MKT | These are the flip-flops which constitute the counters of the timing generator. <br> WINDOW <br> The Window Register is a simple shift register which receives the instruction codes from <br> the mark track and uses the codes to set the State Generator. |
| This means the SWTM/NORMAL switch is in write timing and mark track mode (SWTM). |  |

In Chapter 3, the logical operation of the TC08 and TC08N controllers is explained. Because the difference between the two controllers is simply a matter of lievel converters, that is, the two are logicalily identical, the term TC08 will be used for both unless otherwise indicated.

### 3.1 A REVIEW OF MAGNETIC TAPE RECORDING

DECtape uses a recording technique variously known as double pulse, phase modulation, or "Ferranti logic". Because the design of the TC08 reflects this recording technique, these recording methods are reviewed in this section.

### 3.1.1 Magnetic Recording in General

Three basic elements are required to make and reproduce a magnetic recording:
a. A device which responds to an electrical signal by creating a magnetic pattern in a magnetizable medium.
b. A magnetizable medium which will conform to and hold the magnetic pattern.
c. A device which can detect the magnetic pattern and convert it back to the original electrical signal.

These three elements take the physical form of the record head, the magnetic tape, and the reproduce head, respectively. The addition of electronic amplification and a mechanical fape handler, produces a basic magnetic recorder. Note that the record and reproduce heads are often combined into a single read/write head.
3.1.1.1 The Physics of Recording and Reproducing - A record head is similar to a transformer with a single winding in that signal current flows in the winding, producing a magnetic flux in the core material. The core of the record head is built in the form of a closed ring; but, unlike a transformer core, the ring has a short nonmagnetic gap in it. When this gap is bridged by magnetic tape, the flux detours around the gap through the tape, completing the magnetic path. The magnetic tape is a ribbon of plastic on which particles of magnetic material have been uniformly deposited. As the tape moves across the record head gap, the magnetic material,
or oxide, is subjected to a flux pattern proportional to the signal current in the head winding. When the tape leaves the head gap, each tiny particle retains the state of magnetization that was last imposed on it by the protruding flux. Thus, the actual recording takes place at the trailing edge of the record head gap. A simplified diagram of the recording process is shown in Figure 3-1.

To reproduce or recover the original signal, the magnetic pattern on the tape is moved across a reproduce head. Here again the nonmagnetic gap of the head is bridged by the magnetic oxide of the tape. Lines of flux are shunted through the core, proportional to the magnetic gradient of the pattern on the tape which is spanned by the gap. The induced voltage in the head winding follows the law of electromagnetic induction: $e=N d \Phi / d t$. It is important to note that the reproduced voltage is not proportional to the magnitude of the flux, but to its rate of change.

Suppose the signal to be recorded on a tape is a sinewave voltage described by $A \sin (2 \pi \mathrm{ft})$. The current in


Figure 3-1 Simplified Diagram of the Magnetic Recording Process the record head winding and the flux $\Phi$ through the record head core will be proportional to this voltage.
When the tape retains this flux pattern and regenerates it in the reproduce head core, the voltage in the reproduce head winding will be

$$
e_{\text {repro }} \propto \frac{d \Phi}{d t}
$$

where

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{d \Phi}{d t} & =\frac{d}{d t} A \sin (2 \pi f t) \\
& =2 \pi f A \cos (2 \pi f t)
\end{aligned}
$$

The reproduce head acts as a differentiator so that the reproduced signal is actually the derivative of the recorded signal, and not the signal itself. This point is important, and is referred to later in the text when the principles of DECtape formatting are discussed.

### 3.1.2 The DECtape Read/Write Electronics

The TU55 and TU56 tape drives have 10 heads, each of which can record and reproduce. These heads are divided functionally into five pairs; one pair to record and reproduce the timing tracks, one pair for the mark tracks, and three pairs to record and reproduce the data tracks.

Figure 3-2 shows the electronics of a typical pair, consisting of two read/write heads wired in series center tapped to ground, a G888 writer, and a G888 reader. The writer is similar to a push/pull amplifier; it can drive current in either direction, depending on the relative polarity of its inputs. It can drive an almost square current pulse into the heads. The reader is a high-gain amplifier with positive feedback which will respond to a $500 \mu \vee$ input. It is provided with a test point which samples the output voltage of its first stage. That stage is simply a linear amplifier with a gain of 100. Subsequent stages consist of a zero crossing detector and a limiter which then drives a 7400 series TTL gate. The module is discussed in greater detail in Chapter 6.

The $G 888$ receiver oscillates if it sees no input voltage greater than $500 \mu \mathrm{~V}$. This characteristic is utilized by the up-to-speed logic of the timing generator (see Paragraph 3.2.1.2).

### 3.1.3 The DECtape Recording Technique

Suppose that a binary number 100110 is to be written on one track of the magnetic tape surface, using the electronics of Figure 3-2. Waveform A shows the current pulses in the head windings when ordinary recording is used. Since the maximum rate of current change is between 1 l and Os , during these changes the maximum flux is induced into the magnetic surface and the subsequent passage of a read head develops a maximum output voltage (B). A long string of Os or is tends to look like one long 0 or one long 1.

It is possible to decipher such signals, but it is much more desirable to provide a writing technique that causes some positive action in the center of each bit time. This is accomplished by changing the phase of the writing current pulse in the middle of a bit time. The method is called phase modulation.

To produce phase modulation, the normal steady state logic to be stored must be changed before it reaches the write head. This is done by using a special write buffer (Figure 3-2). The write buffer is loaded with the bit to be written during the main timing pulse, and then complemented at a half clock pulse. (In the TC08 these are called TP00 and TP01, respectively.) The half clock occurs at the same frequency as the main clock, but it is displaced by 180 degrees. The effect is to place a wave of flux on the tape as it passes beneath the head. The polarity of this wave depends on the bit which is loaded during the main clock pulse, which, in turn, depends on whether it was a 0 or a 1.

The read voltage is amplified and clipped in the reader. It is then gated with the half-clock pulse into the data flip-flop, yielding the written version delayed by half a clock time.

Notice that the voltage readout peaks near the center of each bit time, whether a string of Os or ls occurs or not. The choice of polarities is arbitrary, but there is a distinct 180 -degree difference between a 0 and a 1 readout.

READ/WRITE ELECTRONICS


Figure 3-2 DECtape Read/Write Electronics and Waveforms

### 3.2 THE DECTAPE SYSTEM

In this section, the TC08 controller is divided into subunits, and each subunit is analyzed. The subunits are so interrelated; however; that it is impossible to present them in any order of appearance which will not require the text to reference sections not yet mentioned. The reader is urged, therefore, to read the chapter several times, and keep in mind the overall block diagram.

The DECtape system comprises a controller, the TC08, and up to 8 TU55 or 4 TU56 transports. Each transport contains a tape deck with reels, reel motors, tape guides, and $10 \mathrm{read} / \mathrm{write}$ heads. It also includes a rotary selection switch and several functional switches. For complete descriptions of the transports, refer to their respective manuals.

The logic circuits of the transport command tape movement in either direction over the heads. These circuits can be controlled by the TC08 under the direction of its status register.

### 3.2.1 The DECtape Controller

A block diagram of the DECtape TC08 controller is shown in Figure 3-3. It consists of a 12-bit command register, a 6-bit status register, a 12-bit data register, a 6-bit parity register, a 6-bit state generator, a 9-bit window register, a timing generator, and the I/O logic. The command register selects the mode of operation (read or write), the transport which is to operate (transport 6), and the direction of tape motion. The data register buffers the information between the computer and the transport, while the parity register holds the checksum. The window register decodes the mark track and sets the state generator into the correct modes (data, parity, block number) according to the position of the tape over the heads.

The timing generator writes the timing track during write timing and mark and reads it back during ordinary operation. It contains a set of counters which overflow after every 4 lines, or a 12-bit word, and after every 6 lines, or a complete mark track cell. These counters, together with the timing pulse, regulate all the other blocks.

The status register records any timing or parity errors which occur during operation. The I/O logic posts a data flag (DF) when the controller wants to transfer data through the 3-cycle break to or from memory, and the DECtape flag (DTF) whenever an operation has been completed.
3.2.1.1 The Command Register - A simplified diagram of the command register and the tape drive it controls is shown in Figure 3-4. It is divided into 4 sections: the unit select register, whose code must match the unit select switch code of the transport; the motion register, which sets the motion and direction flip-flops of the


Figure 3-3 The TC08 DECtape Controller Block Diagram


Figure 3-4 Command Register
selected transport; the function register, which is decoded to determine in which of the seven modes the controller will operate; and, finally, the enable flip-flop, which, when set, allows the controller to post a program interrupt request to the computer. The motion register is double buffered so that its effects will not be felt until the unit select register has established itself on each transport. Without this delay, two transports could pick up the same motion command.

Each of the flip-flops in this register is a JK which will complement whenever its appropriate input line is asserted and the XSTA pulse issued through the IOT instruction. The buffered motion registers are D-type flip-flops which are jammed with the delayed XSAD pulse, XSA DY H.

Device code 76 with IOP 2 complements selected flip-flops, and code 76 with IOP 4 (CSTA) clears all.
Figure 3-5 shows the timing for the various versions of the PDP-8.

Flip-flops MRO1 and BMRO1, which select the stop or go function, clear and stop the transport if a CSTA is issued, if power clear is issued, if the computer stops ( $B-\operatorname{RUN}(0) L$ appears), or if any error except a parity error occurs (PC + ESL).
3.2.1.2 The Timing Generator - This part of the controller (shown simplified in Figure 3-6) has 4 subsections; the timing track write logic, the up-to-speed logic, the timing track read logic, and the counters.

The timing track write logic is used only when a tape is being formatted. Its M401 clock is enabled when the switch is on SWTM and this mode is selected. This 120-kc clock starts a two-bit switched tail counter CK00, CK01. CK00 is used to write the timing track, and CKO1, 90 degrees out of phase, generates the internal signals to the controller for writing the mark track. The reason for this arrangement is worth further explanation. The timing signals that are being recorded now will later be read back and used to read and write data. We know from previous theory that these timing tracks will read back 90 degrees out of phase from when they were written. So that the mark track being written:corresponds in phase to the data to be written later, the mark track must be written 90 degrees out of phase with the presently generated timing track. This is accomplished by using CK00 to write the timing track, but CK01, which is 90 degrees out of phase, to write the mark track.

The up-to-speed logic prevents timing pulses from entering the main controller until the tape motion has reached an acceptable speed. It does this by monitoring the frequency of the timing pulses coming off the tape with two delays. As noted in Paragraph 3.1.2, the $G 888$ reader oscillates if it detects no input signal above $500 \mu \mathrm{~V}$. The first delay, which is fired whenever the computer requests a change of transport or motion, allows the tape to reach a speed at which the $G 888$ stops oscillating and starts responding to the timing track ( 120 ms ). The next delay, an integrating-one-shot, fires only after the timing track signals reach a specified frequency and the first delay has timed out. This sets the up-to-speed (UTS) flip-flop. Gates (3) are enabled, and timing pulses TP00 and TP01 are passed on to the rest of the generator.


08-0433
Figure 3-5A Command Register Timing with PDP-8/L


Figure 3-5B Command Register Timing with PDP-8


08-0435
Figure 3-5C Command Register Timing with PDP-8/I

The timing track signal is received by the G888 reader, which then generates two complementary signals TTRK (0)H and T TRK (1)H on the leading and lagging edges of the timing pulse. If the controller is not in Write Timing and Mark Track Mode, gates (1) are enabled, and these signals each trigger their respective $10 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ delay. These delays serve two functions: they do not accept any other pulses for their period, thus eliminating any noise which may follow the pulse; and they also disable their opposing signal at gate (3), thus eliminating any possible crosstalk between the two. Finally, if the controller is in Write Timing and Mark Track Mode, gates (2) are enabled, and the counter CK01 generates the proper timing pulses.

Finally, the timing pulses feed two sets of counters (see Figure 3-7), C00 and MKT, which trigger on TP00 and are used to keep track of the number of bits that have been read from or written into a track, up to 4 (which means a 12-bit word). C01 triggers on TP01 and divides its pulses by 2 . The value of this will become obvious later.

The three-bit ring counter, MC00-MC02, recycles every 6 bits per track (thus every cell). It is used to synchronize the mark track cells as they are decoded from the window register.

These counters are synchronized at gate (B) as the window register decodes the interblock sync mark (725 or 525) during search, read data, read all, or write all functions. For read all and write all this synchronizing occurs on the first block after the up-to-speed flip-flop is set, but not again until it resets.

During search and read data, the controller resynchronizes after every block.
3.2.1.3 The Window Register - This is a 9-bit shift register (see Figure 3-8) which remains cleared until the UTS flip-flop has set. It then begins to shift the mark track code in through its least significant bit. No decoding is carried out until W01, the most significant bit, is set. This bit latches on a one and decoding begins. Requiring W01 to latch before decoding guarantees that at least 9 bits have been transferred, and, therefore, that the code is a valid one. The decoding shown in Figure 3-8 is carried out for the benefit of the state generator. Decoding for other subunits is shown in their respective diagrams.
3.2.1.4 The State Generator - As the window register decodes information from the mark track, the state generator responds by interpreting the code appropriately and stepping through six states as different regions of a block appear. This process guarantees that a block of data is handled completely; that is, that the controller does not start writing half way into a block because it has detected a data region on the mark track.

The state generator in Figure 3-8 is 6 bits long. It starts off in the idle state and steps from that through a start block, a parity check, a data, a final, and a checksum state, as a complete block passes the read heads. It cannot leave the idle state unless it sees the beginning of a block, so there is no chance that a block will be partially written into or read.


Figure 3-6 Timing Generator


08-0448

Figure 3-7 The Counters


08-0447
Figure 3-8 The Window Register and State Generator

Table 3-1 shows the relationship between the window decoding and the mark track, and their functions within the controller. Note that the mark track code over any given cell depends on the direction of motion of the tape. If the tape is reversed, then the mark track codes are transformed into their obverse complements; i.e., $73 \rightarrow 10,51 \rightarrow 32,45 \rightarrow 26,70 \rightarrow 70$, and $25 \rightarrow 25$. The result is the same order of codes on the mark track regardless of the direction of the tape.
3.2.1.5 The Data Buffer - Figure $3-9$ shows a simplified schematic of 4 bits of the 12 -bit data buffer. During a read operation, the data buffer shifts the output of the three read heads into three 4-bit shift registers at time TP01. When the buffer fills, the data flag is set (I/O LOGIC) and the buffer is transferred into Memory.

During a write operation (when Write Enable (WR EN (1)) is asserted), the data buffer is loaded from memory, then alternatively shifted into the three-bit write buffer which is complemented on TPO1. The direction of the transition during complementation determines whether a 1 or a 0 has been shifted into the word buffer, and thus what is written on the data track.

At the end of a block during a write operation, the LPB (parity register) is jammed into the data buffer and word buffer and written into the appropriate cell. During a read operation, the parity register is tested for possible error .

Timing diagrams for these operations are discussed later.
3.2.1.6 The Longitudinal Parity Buffer - This buffer (shown in Figure 3-10) is initiated (zeroed) when the ST REV CK (1)H mark passes over the read heads. From here on each data bit complements a parity flip-flop if it is a zero. There are two sets of three flip-flops in the LPB. A set samples the incoming data tracks every alternate timing pulse. When the end of the block is reached the result of this calculating is either deposited, if the machine is writing, or tested for error, if it is reading.

The error testing is done by regarding the checksum deposited at the end of the block as a data word. After this word is seen by the LPB, the LPB should be all ones, as shown in the following:

Let $\uparrow$ define the operation between data bits on any track as performed by the LPB
Let $A$ and $B$ represent two bits (or two strings of bits).
i.e., $A \uparrow B=\bar{A} \bar{B}+A B=C=$ checksum

Then $A \uparrow B \uparrow C=C \uparrow C=\vec{C} \vec{C}+C C=1$
Complete timing diagrams for these operations are discussed later.
3.2.1.7 The I/O Control - All of the data transfers between the computer and the DECtape take place through the 3-cycle data break facility. The control logic which handles these transfers consists of a data flag (DF) to request the transfer, a word count overflow flag (WC) which is set when the word count overflows, and the data buffer which receives and transmits data and miscellaneous gates. Figures 3-11 and 3-12 show a simplified schematic of the logic and the associated timing.

Table 3-1
Mark Track and Window Codes

| Mark <br> Thack <br> Code | Name | Window Code | Name | Function |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 55 | REV END MARK | 555 | None | This code requires no operation. It indicates that the tape is leaving an end zone. |
| 25 | INTERBLOCK SYNC | $\begin{aligned} & 725 \\ & 525 \end{aligned}$ | SYNCH H | This code is used by the timing generator to synchronize its counters with the beginning of a block. It occurs between blocks and at either end of the tape. |
| 26 | FORWARD BLOCK MARK | 526 | MK BLK MK | This code occurs when the block number is in the data register. During a search, the DF is set and a transfer is carried out. This code also steps the state generator from IDLE to ST BLK MK. |
| 32 | REVERSE GUARD MARK | 632 | MK DATA SYNC | This is a no-operation code which gives the computer time to respond to the block number it has found in 26. |
| 10 | LOCK MARK | 610 | MK BLK START | This code steps the state generator from ST BLK MK to ST REV CK (Reverse Checksum). During this state, the LPB is initiated. |
| 10 | REVERSE PCC MARK | 410 | MK BLK START | The same code also steps the state generator to DATA; the controller then carries out data transfers. |
| 10 | REVERSE <br> FINAL <br> MARK | 410 | MK BLK START | No action is taken on this code here, except that the controller checks to be sure it is decoded. The first data block is happening. |
| 10 | REVERSE <br> PREFINAL | 410 | MK BLK START | Again no action is taken. This indicates the second data block is happening. |
| 70 | DATA MARK | 470 | MK DATA | These codes indicate that a data cell is under the heads. |
| 73 | PREFINAL MARK | 473 | MK BLK END | This code indicates that the last data cell is about to happen. The state generator switches to ST FINAL. |
| 73 | FINAL MARK | 773 | MK BLK END | This indicates that the last data cell has passed the heads. The state generator switches to ST CK (Checksum) to deal with the parity checksum. Then the state generator goes to IDLE. |
| 73 | PCC MARK | 773 | MK BLK END | The longitudinal parity checksum is stored in the PCC MARK cell. No operation occurs when MK BLK END is decoded. |
| 73 | REVERSE <br> LOCK <br> MARK | 773 | MK BLK END | No operation. |
| 51 | GUARD MARK | 751 | ------ | No operation. This code becomes 32 when the tape is travelling in the opposite direction. In this direction it does nothing. |
| 45 | REVERSE <br> BLOCK <br> MARK | 545 | ------ | No operation. |



Figure 3-9 Data Buffer


Figure 3-10 The Longitudinal Parity Buffer



Figure 3-11 The I/O Control

When the computer uses more than 8 K of core, it adds a memory extension control. In order to address more than 8 K , the $\mathrm{I} / \mathrm{O}$ Control uses a memory field register which is set by the program and supplies the current address extension to Memory Extension Control input EA00 L $\rightarrow$ EA12 L.


Figure 3-12 The I/O Control Timing

The DECtape (DTF) flag (Figure 3-13) is set at the end of each operation; this causes a program interrupt to the computer if the enable interrupt flag (ENI) is also set. The DTF is reset with the XSTA IOT instruction. Engineering drawing D-BS-TC08-0-4 shows the logic which sets the DTF.
3.2.1.8 The Write Enable Flag - One piece of logic which does not fit into any of the foregoing subsystems, but plays an important role in the operation of the control, is the WREN (Write Enable) flag (see Figure 3-14), which is set whenever the controller is writing information on the tape. This flag enables the write amplifier; the conditions under which it is set are summarized in Figure 3-14.
3.2.1.9 The Status B Logic (see Figure 3-15) - The status B logic consists of the error flags (Sheet 1) and the memory field logic (Sheet 2). Table 3-2 summarizes the logical reasons for each of the errors. The functional significance is discussed in Chapter 2.


Figure 3-13 The DECtape Flag


Figure 3-14 The Write Enable Flag

Table 3-2
The Error Flags

| Flag | Function | Conditions When It Is Set |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MKTK | MARK TRACK ERROR | This error occurs if the window register decodes a MK BLK START, a MK DATA, a MK BLK END, or a MK END during any other but BLK MK or IDLE states, unless the transport is in a move mode. |
| END | END OF TAPE | When the MK END code shows up in the window register, it signifies that the tape has gone into the forward end zone. This flag is posted. |
| SEL | SELECT ERROR | A select error occurs under any of three conditions: <br> (1) If the write timing and mark track function and the SWTM switch are not selected or unselected simultaneously. <br> (2) If a write function (FRO1(1)) is selected by the write enable switch and is not selected on the transport (-WRITE OK). <br> (3) If no transport is selected; i.e., if no select switch of a transport corresponds to the number in the unit select register, or if more than one is selected. Both of these conditions are sensed by the G879. |
| PAR | PARITY | If, during a read operation (READ DATA), the LPB is not equal to one when ST CK occurs, then PAR is set. |
| TIM | TIMING ERROR | A timing error occurs under any of the following conditions: <br> (1) If $a+1$ to DTF occurs while the DTF is still up, indicating that the flag was not serviced in time. <br> (2) If the data flag is on a one when a shift data buffer pulse (SH DTB) occurs, indicating that the three-cycle break did not operate on time. <br> (3) If an XSTA IOT occurs in any state other than BLK MK or IDLE, and the RD + WD signal is high, then the IOT occurred during a read or write operation, which should not happen. |



Figure 3-15 Status B Logic of the Error Flags (Sheet 1)


Figure 3-15 Status B Logic of the Error Flags (Sheet 2)

### 3.3 THE TC08 SYSTEM TIMING

In the previous section, each of the individual subsystems of the TC08 controller was studied. In this section, these units are examined as they relate to the system. Extensive timing diagrams in Figures 3-16, 3-17, and 3-18 show how the system behaves when in Write Timing and Mark Track mode, in Search mode going into Write or Write All, and in Read or Read All, respectively.

### 3.3.1 Write Timing and Mark Track

When the DECtape controller is set to this mode and the appropriate switches are set in the controller and the transport, the following events take place (see Figure 3-16). The Timing Generator begins to write the timing track and to generate TPOO and TP01. COO and CO1 and MKT count. The WREN flag is set, and the data buffer circuitry starts to shift data into the word buffer. The DF is set, and the correct mark track coding is placed into the data buffer, after which the word buffer is shifted and complemented and the mark track is written (because TM EN H is asserted). The Data Flag (DF) is set every four clock pulses to demand another word, and the DECtape Flag (DTF) is set either with the Data Flag, in normal mode, or after the word count overflows, in continuous mode.

In this way, the timing and mark tracks are written onto a reel of magnetic tape. The codes which must be loaded into the data buffer are explained in Chapter 2. The program which does it is called TOG-8.

### 3.3.2 Search and Write Data or Write All

Figure 3-17 shows a timing diagram during a search operation which is followed immediately by either a write data or a write all function. During search, the data buffer is continually sampling the data tracks on TP01. As soon as the forward block mark number is detected in the data buffer (at MK BLK MK time), the Data Flag is posted and the number is transferred into the current address register. The computer then switches the controller to WRITE DATA or WRITE ALL mode. In either case, the WR EN (Write Enable) flag is set, the Data Flag (DF) requests a 12-bit word from Memory through the 3-cycle break logic, and writing begins.

The logic shifts a 3-bit word into the word buffer at TP00 time, and it complements this word buffer at TP01 time with the signals SH DTB and COMP + SH H. Simultaneously, the LPB is cleared, and it reads the last two lines of the Reverse PCC Mark cell. The LPB then proceeds to calculate its parity checksum from the data buffer as the writing continues. At the end of the block, the parity register is transferred into the data buffer by the LPB LPB-to-DB signal. This checksum is then written into the first two lines of the PCC Mark cell. If the controller is in Write Data mode, then the data flag does not set again, and the WR EN flag resets. In Write All mode, however, the WR EN flag remains on and the controller requests another data word every four lines.


Figure 3-16 Write Timing and Mark Track Timing Diagram

The DECtape flag (DTF) sets with the data flag (DF) during normal search, but only at the end of the word count during continuous search. In Write Data and Write All modes, the DECtape flag (DTF) sets at the end of each block during normal search, but only after the word count overflows during continuous search.

Each of the signals of Figure 3-17 should be examined carefully. Note that a write operation must be preceded by a search operation in order to ensure that the counters are properly synchronized and that the correct block is written into.

### 3.3.3 Read Data and Read All

Figure 3-18 shows the system timing for the TC08 in Read Data or Read All modes. During these operations, the data buffer and longitudinal parity buffer (LPB) continuously sample the tracks during TP01 times. The Data Flag (DF) is posted as soon as the first 4 lines have passed after the state generator moves into DATA, and every four lines thereafter. The Data Flag stops when ST FINAL is removed during Read Data, but continues during Read All .

At ST CK, the LPB tests to see if it has all ones, and posts a parity error flag if it has not. Parity is not detected during Read All.

### 3.4 MOVE

The move operation does not cause any significant operation within the controller except to detect the end of tape and post the appropriate error flag. This happens only if that particular tape transport is selected when it runs out of tape. (Note that a tape can be selected, set in motion, then deselected, and it will remember to keep moving.)

### 3.5 TC08 VERSUS TC08N

As noted in the opening paragraph of Chapter 3, the only difference between the TC08 and the TC08N involves level conversion. The TC08N is designed to be run on the negative logic PDP-8 computer. Modules designed to convert the negative logic to the positive levels available in the controller, and then the reverse, are plugged into the TC08. Prints number TC08-N-11 and TC08-0-1 show these differences.

 тронн 111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111111

 мкооит мсо111) mcor(1)


WiNDOW REGister decoding
State register
$\xrightarrow{725} 5$ $\sqrt{\square}$



WREN(1)
 XOR LPB $\left\{\begin{array}{l}03-05 \\ 00-02\end{array}\right.$



 $\xrightarrow{\text { ORECTION OF MOTIONN }}$

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Rev ENo } \\ \substack{\text { Man } \\ 55} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $\underset{\substack{\text { Forwaro } \\ \text { mark } \\ \text { mark } \\ 26}}{ }$ |  | cock |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { SuAPD } \\ & \text { UMARO } \\ & 51 \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { INTERBLOCK } \\ \text { SYNC } \\ 25 \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { INTERBLOCK } \\ \text { SYNC } \\ 25 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | 22 | 22 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 101.10 | 10110 | 0, 0101 | 010101 | 010110 | 0.11010 | 1001000 | 1001000 | 1001000 | 001000 | 111000 | 111000 | 111011 | 111011 | 111011 | 111011 | 101001 | 100101 | 1010101 | 0.0101 | 010101 | 010010 | 010010 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |






○ To Lps
RDEN LPB 00-02
X08 LPB 00-02


xOR LP803-05

- Shen h

SH dib
of(request data transfer)
DF(REQUEST DATA TRANSFER)
DTF
DF REQUEST DATA TRANSER A
DTF WHEN ON NORMAL MODE ON
OTF WHEN ON NORMAL MODE, ON
CONTINOUS MOE DTF STETS
WHEN THE WORD COUNT
WHEN THE WORD COUNT
mimimhimbintman

*note: that synchronization occurs at each interblock sync on read data, but only at the begining of the first block during read all

This chapter provides installation instructions, including unpacking and intercabling instructions, and space, loading, power, and environmental requirements, as well as preliminary checks which should be performed before the equipment is energized and initial turn-on and checkout procedures to ensure that equipment is properly installed.

### 4.1 UNPACKING

### 4.1.1 Hardware

Packaging can vary over a wide range, depending on the system configuration ordered by the user. For example, if the user has ordered an entire PDP-8 System, the TC08 is shipped installed in its appropriate rack (see Figure $4-1$ ), together with the required cables. If a whole system is shipped, the interconnecting cables are installed.

If, on the other hand, only a part of a system is shipped because the user already has a programmed data processor, the DECtape system may be shipped separately, but with the cables. Unpack the equipment as follows:
a. Place the equipment package within the installation site near its projected location. Cut the shipping straps and remove all packing material.
b. Open the rear doors, remove the shipping bolts which hold the plenum door closed, and open the plenum door. Remove the machine screw which holds each side of the cabinet to the pallet. Slide the cabinet off the pallet, using a ramp (approximately $43 / 4$ inches high) from the floor to the top of the pallet. Move the cabinet to its final location within the installation site.
c. Remove the tape which holds the modules in place within the mounting panels, and the tape which holds the power and interconnecting cables to the floor of the cabinet.

### 4.1.2 Software

Each DECtape system is shipped with the software required for installation. This diagnostic software includes punched paper tapes, a description of the program, and a listing. Table 4-1 lists the software for the TC08.


Figure 4-la H950 Frame


Figure 4-lb H950 Frame, Dimension Diagram


Figure 4-2 DECtape System in Cabinet

Table 4-1
TC08 Software

| TC08 BASIC EXERCISER | MAINDEC-08-D3BB-D |
| :--- | :--- |
| TC08 DECTAPE FORMATTER | DEC-08-EUFA-D |
| TC08 DECTREX 1 | MAINDEC-08-D3RA-D |
| TC08 EXTENDED MEMORY EXERCISER | MAINDEC-08-D3EB-D |
| TC08 LIBRARY SYSTEM | DEC-08-SUAI-LA |

### 4.1.3 Inspection

Inspect all of the equipment before installing it, checking each piece against the parts list of print TC08-0-15. Table 4-2 lists the cables supplied with a complete system. Any damage must be reported immediately to the shipper and the DEC representative.

Table 4-2
DECtape Cables

| Type | Standard Length <br> $(\mathrm{Ft})$ | Number | Use |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :--- |
| BC08 | 8 | 5 | I/O Bus and 3-Cycle Break |
| W023-W023 | 4 | 1 per TU55 transport | Command Cable |
| M908-M908 | 4 | l per TU56 transport |  |
| W032-W032 | 4 | I per transport | Head Cable |
| (TU55 or TU56) |  |  |  |
| Indicator Cables | 5 | 4 | Indicator Panel |

### 4.2 SPACE AND ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

### 4.2.1 Space Requirements

Figures 4-1 and 4-2 show the clearances required for the DECtape system installed in the PDP-8, 8/I, and 8/L free standing cabinets. When installing the system, be sure that front and rear of the cabinets are accessible to maintenance personnel. If the cabinets are separated by long distances, consideration should be given to overhead trenching ducts or floor ducts for the cabling.

### 4.2.2 Environmental Requirements

The manufacturer of the magnetic tape recommends that the equipment be operated in a temperature range of $60^{\circ}$ to $80^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ within 40 to $60 \%$ relative humidity.

### 4.3 POWER REQUIREMENTS

### 4.3.1 Power Supplies

Power for the operation of the TC08 controller is derived from a standard DEC power supply type 783 or equivalent. The TC08 uses approximately $1 / 4$ of the capacity of the supply. This power can be shared with existing 783 power supplies already installed in the cabinets up to the limits of their respective capacities. The characteristics of the power supply are given in the Logic Handbook. It is designed to mount on the plenum door of the standard 19-inch rack. Power requirements for the TU55 and TU56 transports are given in their respective Maintenance Manuals .

The indicator panel is powered with a 716 Indicator Supply. Its characteristics are summarized in Chapter 6.

### 4.4 TC08 CABLING

### 4.4.1 Cabling the TC08 to the Computer

The TC08 should be connected to the PDP-8, 8/I, or $8 / \mathrm{L}$ I/O Bus and 3-cycle data break facility. Table 4-3 lists each cable and where it interconnects. All 5 cables are type BC 08 bus cables (see Figure 4-3).

Table 4-3
TC08 or TC08N to The PDP-8, 8/I, or 8/L Cabling

| I/O Signal Name at TC08 | TC08 <br> Location |  | Location <br> in Computer |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Out | In | 8 | $8 / I$ | $8 / L$ |
| I/O BAC 00(1)H - I/O BAC 08(1)H | D02 | A02 | ME34 | J01 | D36 |
| I/O BAC 09(1)H - I/O PWR CLR H | D02 | A02 | ME35 | J02 | D36 |
| I/O BMB 00(1)H - I/O BMB 05(1) H | D03 | A03 | MF34 | J03 | D35 |
| I/O BMB 06 (0)H - I/O BMB 11(1)+1 | D03 | A03 | MF35 | J04 | D35 |
| IM 00 L - IM08L | D04 | A04 | PE2 | J09 | D34 |
| IM 09 L - I/O B - RUN(0)L | D04 | A04 | PE3 | J10 | D34 |
| DATA 00 - DATA 0 8 | D05 | A05 | PE3 | J06 | C36 |
| DATA 09 - I/O ADDR ACC 0 H | D05 | A05 | PF3 | J06 | C36 |
| DB 00(1)L - DB08(1)L | D06 | A06 | PE4 | J07 | C35 |
| DB 09 (1) - EA 00 L | D06 | A06 | PF4 | J08 | C35 |

### 4.4.2 Cabling the TC08 to the TU55 or TU56 Transports

The TC08 is cabled to each of the transports on a 2 -cable parallel bus system, shown in Figure 4-3. Table 4-4 summarizes the use and location of each cable.


Figure 4-3 DECtape Cables

Table 4-4
Cabling Between the Controller and Transports

| Signal Name and Location at TC08 | TU55 |  |  | TU56 |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Cable <br> Type | In | Out | In | OutCable <br> Type |  |
| TG0 L - T00 L A24 | W023- <br> W023 | A05 | A06 | A06 | A07 | M908- <br> M908 |
| Read/Write Heads A,B19 | W032- <br> W032 | A,B02 | A,B03 | A,B10 | A,B11 | W032- <br> W032 |

### 4.4.3 Cabling the Display Panel

Table 4-5 summarizes the signal cabling between the TC08 controller and its display panel.

Table 4-5
Cabling Between the Controller and Display Panel

| Signal Names on Indicator Panel | TC08 Location of M916 Connector |
| :---: | :---: |
| USR 0 - MF 0 | A25 |
| DTB 0 - LPB 2 | A25 |
| MF 1-MC 2 | A26 |
| LPB 3-WTM | A26 |

The connectors are M916 boards at the TC08, hard wired into the indicator assembly at the other end. The cables are about 5 feet long.

### 4.5 FINAL CHECKOUT

After the system is installed, cabled, and powered, it must be made operational. The available tools are the diagnostics, a scope, the logic prints, and the engineer's knowledge of the system.

Final checkout can be approached in one of two ways. The preliminary checks, such as testing for power clear operation, resetting all deloys, and checking for the proper operation of each transport, can be done as listed in Chapter 5; or else the field engineer can start directly with the diagnostics. It is recommended that he perform the former, or at least check that all delays are set properly when the diagnostics run. It is important that Chapter 5 be consulted during this period.

## CHECKOUT AND MAINTENANCE

This chapter presents the maintenance concept of DECtape, followed by some notes on troubleshooting. The procedures recommended to assemble a TC08 controller are outlined together with TC08 calibration and diagnostics. This chapter assumes that the reader is familiar with Chapters 1-4.

### 5.1 THE TCOO MAINTENANCE CONCEPT

There are only two rules to be followed if the TC08 is to be properly maintained:

1. Carry out the preventive maintenance routines regularly.
2. Always perform a complete checkup on the equipment after troubleshooting a particular fault.

The reasons for the first rule are obvious. Unless cables, wiring, panels, and modules are regularly checked for mechanical problems and unless the heads are free of dirt and the tape is properly handled, even the most reliable tape system will fail.

The reason for the second rule is less obvious. It is important that a DECtape system be completely tested during any troubleshooting because the system is so reliable that borderline faults may not show up until later. Checking all parts of the system may reveal marginal problems that can be repaired immediately. Unless a thorough examination is performed, these faults may occur shortly thereafter, needlessly shortening the mean time between failures on the system.

### 5.2 TROUBLESHOOTING THE TC08

Everybody has his own style of troubleshooting equipment he knows well. If it is an effective approach, it begins with a thorough check of the most obvious problems; whether the power is on, all cables properly connected, all modules plugged in, and all switches, dials, lights, etc., in their proper state.

The next step is to define the problem, which also involves locating it. Is the computer, the controller, or the transport at fault? Can any one or all be replaced with working equivalents? Usually a system has more than one transport, so that the responsiblility of that unit is easily defined. If the computer is failing, other
peripherals will usually have problems. Once the problems have been located in the controller, a similar procedure should be used to locate the subsystem within the unit (the module) which is at fault. An interesting approach is to record a series of relevant inputs and outputs; then, using the prints and the reading, try to correlate the various symptoms with a possible cause. This usually leads to speculation, more tests, and a solution.

Once the fault is located, the controller should be given a complete examination. All diagnostics should be run, and all delays and the clock properly set up.

The biggest secret to efficient troubleshooting is a thorough knowledge of the machine and of the diagnostics which test it. The TC08 is described in this manual; the diagnostics are described in their respective publications.

### 5.3 TC08 ASSEMBLY

Before the TC08 is assembled, certain preliminary checks must be performed to avoid damaging the entire unit. These are outlined below. The need for this procedure usually occurs in the factory, although there may be occasions to use it in the field.

### 5.3.1 Equipment

In order to assemble a TC08 or TC08N control, the following equipment must be available.
a. TC08 back panel
b. TC08 indicator system
c. TC08 or TC08N module kit
d. TC08 and TC08N print set
e. TC08 Maindecs (also called TC01 Maindecs)
f. 738 power supply or equivalent
g. 716 indicator supply
h. A minimum of 1 TU55 or TU56 transport
i. A dual trace scope

### 5.3.2 Procedure

The procedure for assembling a TC08 or TC08N control is as follows.
a. Inspect the module mounting panel for such mechanical problems as power bus breaks or shorts (usually caused by loose solder or wires), bent or pushed-in pins, broken blocks, and broken wires. Check that the WRTM/NORMAL switch is properly installed.
b. Plug the G821 power regulator card into its slot as shown on the module map of print TC08-0-13. Connect the POWER OK indicator across pins B01 M2 and B01 M1.
c. Connect Power from the 783 power supply to the regulator with the Mate-N-Lock connector. Turn on the 783 and check all power busses in the empty panel. Table 5-1 shows the voltages to check. Turn off the power supply at the end of this test.

Table 5-1
Voltage Test Points

| Pins | Correct Voltage |
| :--- | :---: |
| A2 | +5 V |
| C2, T1 | GND |

d. Connect the 716 power supply to the indicator system. Install the indicator cables according to Table 5-2. Turn on power to both the panel and the indicators. All indicators except those which are deliberately tied to ground (i.e., all those without a name) should be ON. If some are not, repair them. Remove all power when this step is completed (see Figure 2-7).

Table 5-2
The Indicator Cables

| Signal Name <br> at TC08 | TC08 <br> Location | Display Panel <br> Location | Connector <br> Type |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| USRO0(1)H - <br> MF00(1)H <br> DTB00(1)H - <br> LPB02(1)H <br> MF01(1)H - <br> MC02(1)H <br> LPB03(1)H - <br> SWTM H | A25 | USRO-MFO | M916- Hard <br> wired |

e. Plug in the modules according to the module map of print TC08-0-13. Plug in the rest of the cables according to Table 5-3.

Table 5-3
Computer and Transport Cables

| I/O Signal Name at TC08 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { TC08 } \\ & \text { Location } \end{aligned}$ |  | Location in Computer |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Out | In | 8 | 8/I | 8/L |
| $\begin{array}{r} \mathrm{I} / \mathrm{O} \text { BAC } 00(\mathrm{I}) \mathrm{H}-\mathrm{I} / \mathrm{O} \mathrm{BAC} \\ 08(\mathrm{l}) \mathrm{H} \end{array}$ | D02 | A02 | ME34 | J01 | D36 |
| I/O BAC 09(1)H-I/O PWR | D02 | A02 | ME35 | J02 | D36 |
| $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{I} / \mathrm{O} \text { BMB } 00(1) \mathrm{H}-\underset{05(\mathrm{I}) \mathrm{H}}{\mathrm{I} / \mathrm{O}} \mathrm{BMB} \end{gathered}$ | D03 | A03 | MF34 | J03 | D35 |
|  | D03 | A03 | MF35 | J04 | D35 |
| IM 00 L - IM08L | D04 | A04 | PE2 | J09 | D34 |
| IM $09 \mathrm{~L}-\mathrm{I} / \mathrm{O} \mathrm{B}-\mathrm{RUN}(0) \mathrm{L}$ | D04 | A04 | PE3 | J10 | D34 |
| DATA $00-$ DATA 08 | D05 | A05 | PE3 | 106 | C36 |
| DATA $09-\mathrm{I} / \mathrm{O}$ ADDR ACC 0 H | D05 | A05 | PF3 | 106 | C36 |
| DB 00 (1)L - DB08(1)L | D06 | A06 | PE4 | J07 | C35 |
| DB 09 (1) - EA 00 L | D06 | A06 | PF4 | J08 | C35 |
| Signal Name and Location at TC08 | TU55 |  | TU56 |  |  |
|  | In | Out |  |  | Out |
| TGO L - TOO L A24 | A05 | A06 |  | 4 | BJ7 |
| Read/Write Heads A, B19 | A, B02 | A, B03 |  | 310 | A,B11 |

### 5.4 TC08 PRELIMINARY CHECKOUT AND CALIBRATION

The following steps comprise the procedure for preliminary checkout and calibration of the TC08.
a. Test power clear for correct operation by scoping the power clear input to all flip-flops and turning the computer on and off. A less rigorous test is to check if the indicators go off with power clear.
b. Dial one of the transports to 8 or 0 , and any other to different numbers. This is the transport that will be used for the test.
c. To test all the IOTs, key in the following instructions.

| Location | Code | Mneumonic |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0000 | 7604 | LAS |
| 0001 | 0010 | AND (0017) |
| 0002 | 1011 | TAD (6760) |
| 0003 | 3005 | DCA |
| 0004 | 1012 | TAD (0400) |
| 0005 | 7402 | HLT |
| 0006 | 5000 | JMP START |
| 0007 | 7402 | HLT I/O SKIP |
| 0010 | 0017 |  |
| 0011 | 6760 |  |
| 0012 | 0400 |  |

Start the program at location 0000, and set bits $8-11$ into the switch register to select the IOT code that is to be executed. Table 5-4 shows what the switch register does.

Table 5-4
The Switch Register Bits

| Switch Register Bit | State | Code Selector |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 8 | 0 | 76 |
| 8 | 1 | 77 |
| Unselected, these $\begin{cases}9 & 1 \\ 10 & 1\end{cases}$ |  |  |
| bits do nothing |  | IOP4 |
| 11 | 1 | IOP2 |

This program executes the IOT instruction that is indicated in the switch register until it is halted. The IOT decoding should be checked by watching the outputs of the M103 decoders with a scope and then placing the correct code and control pulse into the register.
d. Calibrating the TC08 controller involves setting up the various delays. The XSA DY delay shown in print TC08-0-6 can be triggered by placing 0004 into the switch register and starting the preceding IOT program. Set this delay to the value indicated in the prints.
e. To fire the $U \& M$ DY delay, shown in Print TC08-0-3, key in the following program. This program causes the direction bit to be XORed at a rate determined by the contents of the switch register. Set the delay to the value shown in the prints.

| Start | 0000 | 7604 | LAS |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | 0001 | 7040 | CMA |
|  | 0002 | 3015 | DCA |
|  | 0003 | 2014 | ISZ |
|  | 0004 | 5003 | JMP.-1 |
|  | 0005 | 2015 | ISZ |
|  | 0006 | 5003 | JMP .-3 |
|  | 0007 | 1013 | TAD |
|  | 0010 | 6764 | DTXA |
|  | 0011 | 5000 | JMP START |


| 0012 | 7402 | HLT I/O SKIP |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0013 | 0400 |  |
| 0014 | 0000 |  |
| 0015 | 0000 |  |

f. Remove the G888 in slot A18 and add a temporary iumper between D14K2 and D14U1: then change address 13 of the previous program to ALL Zeros. The program may be used to fire the SP DY which should be set to the value noted on print TC08-0-3. Set - XTDY also. After these delays are set, remove the jumper, insert the G888 back into slot A18, and replace the original contents of address 13 (0400).
g. Add the following instructions to the previous program, to produce a tape-rocking program. Start this program at location 16.

| 0016 | 7600 | CLA |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0017 | 1023 | TAD |
| 0020 | 6766 | DTLA |
| 0021 | 5000 | JMP START |
| 0022 | 7402 | HLT I/O SKIP |
| 0023 | 0200 |  |

h. Use the following program to enable and calibrate the write timing and mark track clock.

| Start | 0000 | 1004 | TAD |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | 0001 | 6766 | DTLA |
| 0002 | 0002 | 6764 | DTXA |
|  | 0003 | 5002 | JMP .-1 |
|  | 0004 | 0260 |  |

Place unit 8 on-line and write enabled. Place WRTM normal switch in the WRTM position. Start the program. The clock should be set to the value noted on engineering drawing D-BS-TC08-0-3.

### 5.5 TC08 DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

### 5.5.1 Diagnostics

The controller is now calibrated. The following diagnostics should be run in the order indicated.
a. The TC01 basic exerciser (MAINDEC-08-D3BB-D) or Extended Memory Exerciser (MAINDEC-08-D3EB-D) when applicable.
b. DECtape Formatter (DEC-08-EUFA-D)
c. DECtrex 1 (MAINDEC-08-D3RA-D)
d. The DECtape Library System (DEC-08-SUAI-LA)
e. Elevated temperature testing. The control must run DECtrex 1 for one hour free at $55^{\circ}$ Centigrade.
f. Life testing. DECtrex 1 should be run for a minimum of one hour per transport.

### 5.5.2 Testing the Mark Track Decoder

The most important single subsystem within the controller is the mark track decoder, which is contained within the M228 module. Problems within this module can be the most difficult to diagnose.
a. The following procedure outlines a possible approach. It assumes that the controller can search.
(1) Load the basic exerciser (MAINDEC-08-D3BB-D) into the computer.
(2) Have the exerciser rock the tape in search mode.
(3) Check the output of the mark track reader.
(4) Check each window flip-flop to see if all are getting set. This can be done by examining the indicator panel or scoping each bit.
(5) Scope each mark track code. Compare the number of times the code appears against the format.
(6) The timing pulses are also critical inputs to the mark track decoder. Thoroughly check the timing circuitry.
b. If the machine cannot even search properly, check the following areas of possible fault.
(1) Are the data flag and the DECtape flag being set properly?
(2) Is the $+1 \rightarrow$ CA INH operating during search?
(3) Are the breaks taking place in the right direction?
(4) Is the break going to the proper address?
(5) Is the machine performing a single-cycle break rather than a multi-cycle break?

None of these tips can replace a thorough knowledge of the equipment, and a carefully controlled set of tests.

### 5.6 DECTAPE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

Preventive maintenance involves visual inspection of the system according to the list in Table 5-5, running the diagnostics, and adhering to the practices listed below.

### 5.6.1 Handling Magnetic Tape

When tape is handled (during splicing), the operator's hands should be clean to prevent contamination of the tape by body oils and salts. The use of sticky masking tape or cellulose tape as splicing or tail-end hold-down is not recommended, because small deposits of the adhesive will strick to the tape.

Heads and guides should be cleaned regularly to remove accumulations of foreign matter .

Table 5-5
Visual Inspection Checklist

| Item | Check |
| :--- | :--- |
| Mechanical <br> Connections | a. Check that all screws are tight and that all mech- <br> anical assemblies are secure. <br> b. Check that all crimped lugs are secure and that all <br> lugs are properly inserted in their mating connectors. <br> Cables and |
| a. Check all wiring and cables for breaks, cuts, frayed <br> leads, or missing lugs. Check wire wraps for broken or <br> missing pins. |  |
| b. Check that no wire or cables are strained in the ir |  |
| normal positions or have severe kinks. Check that |  |
| cables do not interfere with doors and that they do not |  |
| chafe when doors are opened and closed. |  |
| Components | Check all air filters for cleanliness and for normal air <br> movement through cabinets. |
| Indicators and Switches | Check that all modules are properly seated. Look for <br> areas of discoloration on all exposed surfaces. Check <br> all exposed capacitors for signs of discoloration, or <br> leakage, or corrosion. Check power supply capacitors <br> for bulges. <br> Check all indicators and switches for tightness. Check <br> for cracks, discoloration or other visual defects. |

### 5.6.2 Cleaning DECtape Reels

If the tape is contaminated by dust, carefully wipe the surface and backing of the tape with a lint-free cloth, such as a very soft chamois. Contamination that does not brush off easily can be washed off with a cloth slightly moistened with Freon TF. Aliphatic hydrocarbon-type solvents (heptane, gasoline, naphtha) can also be used, but care should be exercised because they are flammable. Do not use carbon tetrachloride, ethyl alcohol, trichlorethylene, or other unknown cleaning agents because they may soften the oxide, deform the backing, or both.

### 5.6.3 Storing Tapes

The best method of storage is to place the reel of tape in a self-sealing plastic case supplied for the purpose by DEC, and store it on edge in a storage bin equipped with partitions between each two reels. The plastic case protects tape from dust and sudden changes in humidity and temperature. It also guards both tape and reel from damage in handling when the tape is transported between work and storage areas.

If the tape must be stored in the presence of magnetic fields, either ac or dc, special containers are available which will protect the data from erasure in all but extremely high fields. It is more desirable to store them away from such fields, if at all possible.

Avoid extremes of temperature and humidity. In general, recommended storage conditions are:

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { Relarive humidity: } & 40 \text { т̀ } 60 \% \\
\text { Temperature: } & 60 \text { to } 80^{\circ} \mathrm{F}
\end{array}
$$

When extremes in temperature are encountered during storage or transit, tape should be brought to equilibrium before it is used.

### 5.6.4 Physical Distortion

Most signal dropouts in digital recordings are caused by specks of dust and other contaminants which lift the tape away from the head. However, two other significant causes are dents and creases in the base material. Dents are caused by particles wound up tightly in the roll or by roughness in the surface of the hub on which the tape is wound. These may cause permanent dents or creases in many layers of the tape which cannot be stretched out flat as the tape passes over the head. Stresses in the roll which stretch the backing $5 \%$ will usually leave a permanent impression. Stresses below the $5 \%$ level are not usually permanent. Creases are caused by handling the tape (i.e., threading, splicing, removing the tape from the guides, etc.) or by damage to the edges of the tape because of uneven winding.

### 5.6.5 Accidental Erasure or Saturation

The magnetic properties of instrumentation tapes are extremely stable. The magnetic retention is permanent unless altered by magnetic fields such as those generated by permanent magnets or electromagnets. These will probably cause partial erasure if placed within a few inches of the tape.

Both unrecorded and recorded tapes should be kept away from electromagnetic bulk erasers and storage cabinets with magnetic latches. Unrecorded tapes should not be placed near dc magnetic fields, such as traveling-wavetubes or magetron magnets, because they may become heavily biased or even create gross distortion in the record process (i.e., the resultant signal-to-noise ratio will be reduced).

If parts of the recorder become magnetized, they can cause tape erasure, possible tape saturation, and signal degradation. As a preventive measure, periodic demagnetization of critical parts, particularly heads, is recommended.

### 5.6.6 Head Care and Head Life

The following factors must be considered when maintaining tape heads.
a. Cleanliness of tape, the transport, and their environment.
b. Maintenance procedures which involve the checking of tape tension, tracking, etc.
c. The abrasiveness of the tape being used.
d. Solvents used for cleaning the heads.

Cleanliness in and around the head area is of utmost importance in all tape machines. Dirt particles become a serious threat to the data "take" because they cause spacing loss. They can also become minute scrapers, gougers, and cutters to the head and tape surfaces when dragged between them.

Care must be taken not to touch the heads with any metallic or hard object to avoid scratching, gouging, or magnetizing the heads. For cleaning the heads, use only alcohol, naptha, Freon TF, or gasoline. Freon TF is probably the best all-around cleaner. It should be noted that most head cleaners will also dissolve lubricafing greases and tape binders and should be used carefully, especially around bearings and the tape. Cotton swabs make good disposable cleaning tools.

### 5.7 MODULE AND ACCESSORY WARRANTIES

The following is a summary of the warranties offered for the TC08 and TC08/N DECtape Controllers.

### 5.7.1 Type B, R, W, M, K and A Modules

All B, R, W, M, K and A modules shown in Catalog C-105, as revised from time to time, are warranted against defects in workmanship and material under normal use and service for a period of ten years from date of shipment (providing parts are available). DEC will repair or replace any $B, R, W, M, K$, or $A$ modules found to be defective in workmanship or material within ten years of shipment for a handling charge of $\$ 5.00$ or $10 \%$ of the list price per unit, whichever is higher. Handling charges will be applicable from one year after delivery.

Notwithsianding anything herein contained to the contrary, the Module Warranty outside the continental U. S. A. and Canada is limited to repair or replacement of the module, and excludes all costs of shipping, customs clearance, or any other related charges.

### 5.7.2 System Modules

All System Modules, Laboratory Modules, High Current Pulse Equipment, G, S, H, Non-Catalog Flip-Chip Modules and Accessories are warranted against defects in workmanship and material under normal use and service for a period of one year from date of shipment, and DEC will repair or replace any of the above items found to be defective in workmanship or material during that period. Handling charges will be applicable from one year after delivery with the amount of handling charges being available to the purchaser upon request. Notwithstanding anything herein contained to the contrary, the Module Warranty outside the continental U. S. A. and Canada is limited to repair or replacement of the module, and excludes all costs of shipping, customs clearance, or any other related charges.

### 5.7.3 Shipping

All modules must be returned prepaid to the Digital Equipment Corporation. Transportation charges covering the return of the repaired modules shall be paid by the Digital Equipment Corporation except as required by Paragraphs 5.7.1 and 5.7.2. The Digital Equipment Corporation will select the carrier, but by so doing will not thereby assume any liability in connection with the shipment, nor shall the carrier be in any way construed to be the agent of the Digital Equipment Corporation. Please ship all units to:

```
Digital Equipment Corporation,
Module Marketing Services-Repair Division,
146 Main Street,
Maynard, Massachusetts 01754
```

No modules will be accepted for credit or exchange without the prior written approval of DEC, plus proper Return Authorization number.

### 5.7.4 Systems

The TC08 system is warranted against defects in workmanship and material under normal use and service, as discussed below, for a period of three (3) moniths from the date of installation. Notwithstanding the aforesaid, in the event that DEC is prevented, by causes beyond its control, from properly installing the equipment, the period for this warranty shall be deemed to commence on the thirtieth (30th) day after delivery, or upon installation, whichever is sooner. DEC's sole responsibility under this warranty shall be, at its option, to either repair or replace any component which fails during this period, provided the purchaser has promptly reported same to

DEC in writing and DEC has, upon inspection, found such components to be defective. The purchaser must obtain shipping instructions for the return of any item under this warranty provision. Compliance with such instructions shall be a condition of this warranty.

### 5.7.5 Other Warranty Conditions

All above warranties are contingent upon proper use in the application for which the products were intended and do not cover products which have been modified without DEC's approval, or which have been subjected to unusual physical or electrical stress, or on which the original identification marks have been removed or altered. These warranties will not apply:
(1) if adjustment, repair, or parts replacement is required because of accident, neglect, misuse, failure of electric power, air conditioning, humidity, control, transportation, or causes other than ordinary use, or
(2) if the equipment is installed by the customer without prior written approval from DEC , or
(3) if the equipment is removed from its location of initial delivery.

### 5.8 SERVICE POLICY

Unless explicitly agreed upon by the owner and the Digital Equipment Corporation, the responsibility for preventive and corrective maintenance, after the warranties have elapsed, lies solely with the owner of the TC08. Replacement stockpiles, special tools, test equipment, or other auxiliary equipment listed as a requirement for maintenance in this manual, will not be supplied by the Digital Equipment Corporation.

### 5.9 SPARE PARTS

No spares are shipped with the TC08. Table 5-6, however, lists recommended spares, together with minimum quantities for maintenance. Check the equipment warranty before ordering a spares replacement.

Table 5-6
Recommended TC08, TC08/N Spares

| TC08/N |  | TC08 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number | Module Type | Number | Module Type |
| 1 | G888 | 1 | G888 |
| 1 | M100 | 1 | M101 |
| 1 | M102 | 1 | M103 |
| 2 | M113 | 2 | M113 |
| 1 | M121 | 1 | M121 |
| 2 | M206 | 2 | M206 |
| 1 | M302 | 1 | M302 |
| 1 | M633 | 1 | M633 |

Because it is possible to repair modules by replacing faulty components, four of the following chips are recommended for either controller.

DEC 7400 N
DEC 7410 N
DEC 7420 N
DEC 7430 N
DEC 74H40 N
DEC 7474 N

This chapter provides descriptions of special modules used in the TC08 or TC08/N controller but not explained in the Logic Handbook. Engineering drawings referred to in this chapter appear in Chapter 7.

### 6.1 DEC LOGIC

DEC builds three series of compatible below-ground logic (the $B-, R-$, and $S$-series), two series of compatible above-ground logic ( $K$ - and $M$-series), an extensive line of modules to interface different types of logic (Wseries), a line of special purpose modules (G-series), and a line of support hardware for its module line (Hseries).

With few exceptions, the DEC below-ground logic operates with logic levels of ground to -0.3 V (upper level) and -3.2 V to -3.9 V (lower level), using diode gates which draw input current at ground and supply output current at ground. Figure 6-1 shows the voltage spectrum of negative logic systems.


Figure 6-1 Voltage Spectrum of Negative Logic Systems

The compatible above-ground logic generally operates with levels of ground to +0.4 V (lower level), and +2.0 to +3.6 V (upper level), using TTL or TTL-compatible circuits whose inputs supply current at ground and whose outputs sink current at ground. Figure 6-2 shows the voltage spectrum.


Figure 6-2 Voltage Spectrum of TTL Logic

Finally, a set of special modules designed to operate on the PDP-8 I/O bus are available. Figure 6-3 indicates the voltage spectrum in which they operate.


Figure 6-3 Voltage Spectrum for Positive PDP-8 I/O Bus Logic

The DIGITAL Logic Handbook, C-105, is recommended reading for those not already familiar with the basic principles of digital logic and the type of circuits used in DEC logic modules.

### 6.2 MEASUREMENT DEFINITIONS

Timing is measured with the input driven by a gated pulse amplifier of the series under test, and with the output loaded with gates of the same series, unless otherwise specified. Percentages are assigned as follows: 0\% is the initial steady-state level, $100 \%$ is the final steady-state level, regardless of the direction of change.

Input/output delay is the time difference between input change and output change, measured from $50 \%$ input change to $50 \%$ output change. Rise and fall delays for the same module usually are specified separately.

Risetime and falltime are measured from $10 \%$ to $90 \%$ of waveform change, either rising or falling.

### 6.3 LOADING

Input loading and output driving are specified in "units", where one unit is 1.6 mA by definition. The inputs to low-speed gates usually draw 1 unit of load. High-speed gates draw 1-1/4 units, or 2 mA .

### 6.4 MODULE CHARACTERISTICS

### 6.4.1 G775 Connector Card

This connector card, designed to plug into a standard H911 slot, is used to terminate the 36-wire flexprint cable which interconnects logic signals to the equipment indicator panel. All unused inputs should be grounded. Figure 6-4 shows the logical symbol of the connector card; its circuit schematic appears in Chapter 7 as Engineering Drawing B-CS-G775-0-1 .

This connector provides isolation for logic levels so that these levels can directly drive indicator bulbs in the display.

Input loading is 2 units dynamic and 1 unit static (dc).

### 6.4.2 G879 Transports Detector Module (see Figure 6-5)

This is a series $G$ single-height module designed to detect an error condition in the select circuitry of the DECtape system. It will switch if the input voltage is too low, indicating that no transport has been selected, or too high when more than one has been selected. The circuit schematic appears in Chapter 7 as Engineering Drawing B-CS-G879-0-1.


| A2 |
| :---: |
| B2 |
| C 2 |
| 0 |
| D2 |
| E2 |
| F2 |
| - |
| H2 |
| - |
| J2 |
| K2 |
| - |
| L2 |
| M2 |
| - |
| N2 |
| P2 |
| - |
| R2 |
| S 2 |
| - |
| T2 |
| U2 |
| v2 |
|  |
|  |

08-0460

Figure 6-4 The G775
Connector Card Logic Symbol

Inputs: Minimum input impedance $100 \Omega$
Levels $0 V$ to -15 V
Outputs: Standard TTL levels
Fan out - 30 units
Input/Output: Function

| $\frac{\text { Input Voltage }}{-15 \mathrm{~V} \rightarrow-9 \mathrm{~V}}$ | $\frac{\text { Output Voltage }}{}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| $-9 \mathrm{~V} \rightarrow-6 \mathrm{~V}$ | 0 V |
| $-6 \mathrm{~V} \rightarrow 0 \mathrm{~V}$ | +3 V |
|  | 0 V |



08-0456

Figure 6-5 The G879 Transport Detector Module

Power Dissipation: 90 mA from -15 V
25 from +5 V

Application: This module was designed to detect when either no transport or more than one transport has been selected in a DECtape system. It can be driven by a $W 040$ module in series with a $100 \Omega$ resistor as shown in Figure 6-6. When either no W040 driver or more than one driver are driving the G879, its output goes negative. With only one input, the output stays high ( +3 V ).

### 6.4.3 G888 Manchester Reader/Writer Module (see Figure 6-7)

This is a G-series single-height module with a reader and a writer. The reader is a high-gain amplifier with positive feedback which will respond to inputs of $500 \mu \mathrm{~V}$.

There are three stages to the reader; a linear amplifier with a gain of 100, a zero crossing detector, and a limiter which drives a 7400-series TTL gate. A test point, pin $M 2$, is provided to sample the output of the first stage.

The writer is a push/pull amplifier which drives current in one direction or the other as a function of the relative polarity of its inputs. Its inputs feed a 7400 -series gate.

Inputs: WRITER
Standard TTL voltage
Load at 0 V is 1 unit
R2 should be tied to $+3 V$ when not used.
READER



08-0455

It can detect an input voltage as low as $500 \mu \mathrm{~V}$.
Figure 6-7 The G888 Reader/Writer

Outputs: WRITER
The writer can drive 100 mA in either direction. Pins L2 and $M 2$ are the outputs of the 7400 TTL gates. Pins J2 and K2 are the outputs which drive the tape head.

## READER

Outputs $\mathrm{U}, \mathrm{V}$ are standard TTL voltages.
Fan Out U2 9 units
V2 10 units
Pin H 2 is a test point which monitors the output of the first stage.
Standard TTL levels.

Power Dissipation: 50 mW at $+5 \mathrm{~V}, 250 \mathrm{~mW}$ at -15 V . The circuit schematic of the reader/writer appears in Chapter 7 as Engineering Drawing B-CS-G888-0-1.

Application: This module is used to drive or receive current to or from the DECtape heads of the TU55 or TU56 transports.

### 6.4.4 M100 Bus Data Interface

The M100 is a single-height module which contains fifteen two-input NAND gates arranged for convenient data strobing off the PDP-8 or PDP-8/L negative I/O bus. One input of each gate is tied to a common line so that all data signals on the second input of each gate will be enabled simultaneously. The circuit schematic appears in Chapter 7 as Engineering Drawing C-CS-M100-0-1.

Inputs: Minimum input impedance 5 K
Standard negative I/O Bus voltages
Input load at C1-15 units

Outputs: Fan Out - 10 units
Input/Output Delay 40 ns typicaily
Standard TTL levels

Power Dissipation: 10 mA maximum at -15 V

$$
60 \mathrm{~mA} \text { maximum at }+5 \mathrm{~V}
$$

Application: The M100 is used to accept data off negative logic PDP-8 buses. It is pin-compatible with the positive logic M101. The enabling line Cl cannot be used as a strobe line because the output signals are indeterminate for 200 ns after the enabling line becomes true. A data input of -3 V will yield an output of ground when Cl is gated by a positive voltage level. (See Figure 6-8 for logic diagram.)


Figure 6-8 The M100 Bus Data Interface Module, Logic Diagram

### 6.4.5 M102 Device Selector (for use with negative voltage bus)



Figure 6-9 The M102 Device Selector

The M102 (see Figure 6-9) is used to decode the six device address bits transmitted in complementary pairs on the negative bus of the PDP-8, PDP-8/I. The outputs of the M102 are compatible with M Series TTL logic. The M102 is pin-compatible with the M103 Positive bus device selector, with the exception of the address inputs. The true states of the BMB outputs of the PDP-8 and PDP-8/I are defined as ground where the true states of the PDP-8/I positive bus and PDP-8/L are defined as an active voltage state. Because of this the complement of the address bits used for an M103 must be connected to the M102.

Because the address complement is tied to the pins D2, E2, F2, H2, J2, K2, an M103 may be directly substituted for an M102 when changing from a negative to a positive bus. The circuit schematic of the M102 appears in Chapter 7 as Engineering Drawing C-CS-M102-0-1.

Inputs: U2 represents 1.25 TTL unit loads, $\mathrm{J} 1, \mathrm{M} 1$ represents $1 \mathrm{TTL} \mathrm{P1}, \mathrm{R1}, \mathrm{S1}, \mathrm{U1}, \mathrm{M2} ,\mathrm{and} \mathrm{T2} \mathrm{standard} \mathrm{levels}$ of -3 volt and ground. Input load is 1 mA , shared among the inputs that are at ground.

P2, R2, S2, H1 and L1
0.2 mA when V in $=0 \mathrm{~V}$
0.0 mA when V in $=-3 \mathrm{~V}$

Propagation Delay 40 ns typ

Outputs: K 1 and MI can drive 10 TTL unit loads. $\mathrm{AI}, \mathrm{BI}, \mathrm{Cl}, \mathrm{DI}, \mathrm{El}, \mathrm{Fl}$ can each drive 37 TTL unit loads. U2 can drive 16 TTL unit loads.

```
Conversion: Logic Diagram
    An active voltage is a True State, i.e., -3V or +3V = "1"
    A ground is a True State
Power: +5 V at 130 mA. (maximum).
    -15 V at 40 mA. (maximum).
```


### 6.4.6 M228 Mark Track Decoder

The M228 mark track decoder is a double-height $M$-series board designed specifically for the TC08, TC15 DECtape controller. It contains a 9-bit shift register W1-W9, a six-bit state generator, decoding, and control logic. Its operation is explained in detail in Chapter 3 of this manual. The circuit schematic appears in Chapter 7 as Engineering Drawing D-CS-M228-0-1.

| Inputs: Standard TTL Voltages | Loading |
| :---: | :---: |
| AV2 | 26 |
| BH2 | 18 |
| AS2, BD2, AN2, BR2 | 1 |
| BC1 | 12 |
| AR2, BS1, BK2, BL2, BR1 | 1 |
| AN1 | 1 |
| Outputs: Standard TTL Voltages | Fan Out |
| BJ2, BE2, BV2 | 7 |
| BF2, AK2 | 8 |
| AL1, AK1, AM2 | 5 |
| AM1 | 10 |
| AU1 | 9 |
| AF1, AH2, BM2, AJ1, AU2, BU1 | 8 |
| AD2, BT2, BU2 | 8 |
| AJ2, AT2 | 6 |
| AF2, BN2, AH1, BP2, BU1, AE2, BS2 | 10 |

Power Dissipation: 955 mW at 5 V

Application: This module has been designed specifically to perform the mark track decode and state generator functions of the TC08 and TC15 DECtape controller.

### 6.4.7 W032 Connector

This single-height connector board is intended to be used with 5 cables of 3 conductor shielded coaxial cable. It has no elements. The circuit schematic appears in Chapter 7 as Engineering Drawing B-CS-W032-0-1.

### 6.4.8 716 Indicator Supply

This power supply delivers 6.5 Vdc and 9 Vac to the indicator panel of the TC08 or TC15 DECtape system. The circuit schematic appears in Chapter 7 as Engineering Drawing B-CS-716-0-1.

Inputs: $115 \mathrm{Vac} 50 / 60 \mathrm{~Hz}$

Outputs: 6.5 Vdc at 4.5 A
9 Vac at 100 mA (This is a halfwave rectified signal.)

Power Dissipation: 80W maximum

### 6.4.9 M623 Bus Driver (see Figure 6-10)

The M623 contains twelve two-input AND gate bus drivers for convenient driving of the positive input bus of either the PDP-8/I or PDP-8/L. Each driver can sink 100 mA at ground and allows a maximum output voltage of +20 V . The output consists of an open collector NPN transistor. The circuit schematic appears in Chapter 7 as Engineering Drawing C-CS-M623-0-1.

Inputs: Input levels are standard TTL levels of $O V$ and +2.4 V . Data inputs $\mathrm{Al}, \mathrm{B} 1, \mathrm{~F} 1, \mathrm{H} 1, \mathrm{M} 1, \mathrm{NI}, \mathrm{D} 2, \mathrm{E} 2$, K2, L2, R2, and S2 each present one TTL unit load. All other inputs present two unit loads.

Outputs: A driver output will be at ground when both inputs are at ground. Output rise and fall times of TTL are typically 30 ns when a 100 mA resistive load is connected to a driver output. Output voltage must not exceed +20 V .

Power: $+5 \mathrm{~V}, 71 \mathrm{~mA}$ (maximum) plus external load.







08-0426

Figure 6-10 M623 Driver

### 6.4.10 M633 Negative Bus Driver (see Figure 6-11)

The M633 contains twelve bus drivers intended for convenient driving of the negative bus of the PDP-8, PDP-8/I. Each driver consists of an open collector PNP transistor. It is pin-compatible with the M623 positive voltage bus driver. The circuit schematic appears in Chapter 7 as Engineering Drawing $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{CS}-\mathrm{M} 633-0-1$.

Inputs: Input levels are standard TTL levels. Data inputs A1, B1, F1, H1, M1, N1, D2, E2, K2, L2, R2, and S2 each present one TTL unit load. All other inputs represent two unit loads.

Outputs: Open collector PNP transistor capable of supplying 20 mA from ground. Voltage applied to the output should not exceed -6 V .

Conversion: Logic Diagram: An active voltage is a True State; i.e., -3 V or $+3 \mathrm{~V}=\mathrm{l} 1 \mathrm{l}$.
A ground is a True State.
Grounded inputs will yield grounded outputs .

Propagation Delay: 40 ns typ

Power: +5 V at 100 mA (maximum)
-15 V at 40 mA (maximum)


$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { POWER } \\
& \longleftarrow \mathrm{A} 2-+5 \mathrm{~V} \\
& \longleftarrow \mathrm{C} 2, \mathrm{~T} 1-\mathrm{GND} \\
& \leftarrow \mathrm{~B} 2---15 \mathrm{~V}
\end{aligned}
$$

08-0427

Figure 6-11 M633 Negative Bus Driver

This chapter contains all of the engineering drawings applicable to this equipment. Table $7-1$ lists the signal mnemonics, the full names of the signals, and the prints on which each can be found. The print number in the right-hand column of this table refers to the final digit of the TC08 series of prints; e.g., print 11 would refer to engineering drawing $D-B S-T C 08-0-11$.

These drawings are listed in Table 7-2 by number and title, together with the page in this volume on which each can be found. Because DEC is constantly improving its products, it is possible that several engineering changes might have occurred in the TC08 controller since these drawings were published. In case of discrepancies between the drawings contained in this chapter and those received with the controller, the set of prints which came with the equipment should be used for reference.

Table 7-1
TC08, TC08/N Signals

| Signal Mnemonic | Signal Name | TC08 Print |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| O TO AC | Clear the Accumulator | 1,11 |
| 0 TO DTB | Clear the DECtape Buffer | $4,5,8$ |
| 0 TO EF | Clear the Error Flags | 6 |
| 0 TO LPB | Clear the Longitudinal | 9 |
| 0 TO STA | Parity Buffer |  |
| O TO STATE | Clear the Status A Register | 2 |
| 0 TO W | Clear the State Generator | 3,7 |
| 1 TO DF | Clear the Window Register | 3,7 |
| I TO DTF | Set the Data Flag | 4 |
| ADDR ACC | Set the DECtape Flag | 4,6 |
| B - BRK | Address Accepted | $1,4,11$ |
| B - RUN (0) | Break State | 1 |
| B - RUN (1) | Computer Not Running | 2 |

Table 7-1 (Cont)
TC08, TC08/N Signals

| Signal Mnemonic | Signal Name | TC08 Print |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| B - X STA | XOR Status Register A Buffered | 1,4,6 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { BAC } 00 \\ & \text { BAC } 11 \end{aligned}$ | Buffered Accumulator on 0 | 1, 2, 4, 10, 11 |
| BLK IN SYNC | Block in Synchronization | 1, 4 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { BMB } 00(0)- \\ & \text { BMBII (1) } \end{aligned}$ | Buffered Memory Buffer | 8, 10, 11 |
| BMB TO DTB | Transfer Memory Buffer to the DECtape Buffer | 1, 8 |
| C00 (0), (1) | Counter 0 | $4,5,9,12$ |
| C01 (0), (1) | Counter 1 | 4, 5, 9, 12 |
| CK00 (0), (1) | Clock Counter 1 | 3, 10 |
| CK01 (0), (1) | Clock Counter 2 | 3 |
| CLR DF | Clear Data Flag | 4 |
| CLR DTF | Clear DECtape Flag | 4 |
| COMP + SH | Complement or Shift | 5,8 |
| CSTA | Clear Status Register A | 1,2,6 |
| DATA 0, 1 | Data State | 4, 5, 7, 12 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { DBOO (0) - } \\ & \text { DB11 (0) } \end{aligned}$ | Data Bits | 11, 12 |
| DF (0) | Data Flag on a Zero | 4, 5, 11 |
| DF (1) | Data Flag on a One | 4,6, 12 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { DTB } 00(0)- \\ & \text { DTB } 11 \text { (1) } \end{aligned}$ | Data Buffer 0-11 | 8, 9, 11, 12 |
| DTF (0) | DECtape Flag on a Zero | 1, 4, 5, 11 |
| DTF (1) | DECtape Flag on a One | 4, 6, 12 |
| DTSF | Skip on DECtape or Error Flags | 1 |
| EA 00 | Extended Address Bit 0 | 11, 12 |
| EA 01 | Extended Address Bit 1 | 11, 12 |
| EA 02 | Extended Address Bit 2 | 11, 12 |
| EF (0) | Error Flag on a 0 | 1,6,11 |
| EF (1) | Error Flag on a 1 | 6,12 |
| END (0), (1) | End of Tape Error | 6, 11, 12 |
| ENI (0), (1) | Enable Interrupt | 1, 2, 11, 12 |

Table 7-1 (Coni)
TC08, TC08/N Signals

| Signal Mnemonic | Signal Name | TC08 Print |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FR 00 (0) | Function Register Bit 0 on a 0 | 2,4, 11 |
| FR 00 (1) | Function Register Bit 0 on a 1 | 2,4, 12 |
| FROI (0) | Function Register Bit 1 on a 0 | 2,5,11 |
| FRO1 (1) | Function Register Bitlon al | 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 12 |
| FRO2 (0) | Function Register Bit 2 on a 0 | 2, 11 |
| FR02 (1) | Function Register Bit 2 on a 1 | 2,12 |
| FRO3 (0) | Function Register Bit 3 on a 0 | 2, 11 |
| FR03 (1) | Function Register Bit 3 on a 1 | 2, 12 |
| I/O + 1 TOCAINH | Inhibit Incrementing the CA | 11, 12 |
| 1/O OTOAC | Clear the Accumulator | 11,12 |
| I/O ADDR ACC (0) | Address Accepted | 11, 12 |
| I/O B-BRK (0) | Break | 1, 12 |
| I/OB - RUN (I) | Computer Running | 12 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { I/O BAC } 00 \text { (1) - } \\ & \text { I/O BAC } 11 \text { (1) } \end{aligned}$ | Buffered Accumulator | 11, 12 |
| I/O BMB 00 (I) - <br> I/O BMB 11 (1) | Buffered Memory Buffer | 1, 11, 12 |
| I/O BRK RQ | Break Request | 11, 12 |
| I/O BWCO | Buffered Word Count Overflow | 11, 12 |
| I/ODATA IN | Data In | 11, 12 |
| I/O INT RQ | Interrupt Request | 11, 12 |
| I/O PWR CLR | Power Clear | 1, 12 |
| I/O SKP RQ | Skip Request | 11, 12 |
| I/O TS03 | Time State 3 | 12 |
| I/O TS04 | Time State 4 | 12 |
| IM $00-1 \mathrm{MIT}$ | Input Mixers | 11, 12 |
| INT RQ | Interrupt Request | 1,11 |

Table 7-1 (Cont)
TC08, TC08/N Signals

| Signal Mnemonic | Signal Name | TC08 Print |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| IOP 1 | Input/Output Pulse 1 | 1, 12 |
| IOP 2 | Input/Output Pulse 2 | 1, 12 |
| IOP 4 | Input/Output Pulse 4 | 1, 12 |
| LDMF | Load Status Register B | 1 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { LPB } 00(0)- \\ & \text { LPB } 05(1) \end{aligned}$ | Longitudinal Parity Buffer | 8, 9, 12 |
| LPB NOTEQ 1 | Longitudinal Parity Buffer is not Equal to 1 | 6,9 |
| LPB TO DTB | Transfer Contents of LPB to the DTB Register | 8,9 |
| M-STOP | Stop the Transport | 2,3 |
| MC 00 (0), (1) | Mark Track Counter Bit 0 | 4, 5, 6, 12 |
| MCO1 (0), (1) | Mark Track Counter Bit 4 | 4, 5, 6, 12 |
| MC02 (0), (1) | Mark Track Counter Bit 2 | 4, 5, 9, 12 |
| MFOO (0) , (1) | Memory Field Bit 0 | 1, 11, 12 |
| MFO1 (0), (1) | Memory Field Bit 1 | 1, 11, 12 |
| MF02 (0), (1) | Memory Field Bit 2 | 1, 11, 12 |
| MK BLK END | Mark Block End | 6,7,9 |
| MK BLK MK | Mark Block Mark | 4,7 |
| MK BLK START | Mark Block Start | 6,7 |
| MK BLK SYNC | Mark Block Sync | 7 |
| MK DATA | Mark Data | 6,7 |
| MK DATA SYNC | Mark Data Sync | 7 |
| MK END | Mark End | 6,7 |
| MKT (0), (1) | Mark Track Counter | 2, 4, 5, 9, 12 |
| MKTK (0), (1) | Mark Track Head | 6,11,12 |
| MOVE | Move | 2,6 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { MR } 00 \text { (0), (1) - } \\ & \text { MR } 01(0),(1) \end{aligned}$ | Motion Register 0, 1 | $\begin{aligned} & 2,11,12 \\ & 2,3,11,12 \end{aligned}$ |
| PAR(0), (1) | Parity Error Flag | 6,11 |
| PC + ES | Power Clear or Error Stop | 2,6 |
| PWR CLR | Power Clear | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 |
| RD + WD | Read or Write Data | 2, 4, 6 |
| RD EN | Read Enable | 4 |

Table 7-1 (Cont)
TC08, TC08/N Signals

| Signal Mnemonic | Signal Name | TC08 Print |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| RD EN LPB 00-02 | Read Enable Longitudinal Parity Buffer Bits 0-2 | 9 |
| RD EN LPB 03-05 | Read Enable Longitudinal Parity Buffer Bits 3-5 | 9 |
| RDD 00 - RDD 02 | Read Data Tracks 0-2 | 8,9,10 |
| RDMK (0), (1) | Read Mark Track Head | 7,10 |
| READ ALL | Read All Mode | 2,4 |
| READ DATA | Read Data Mode | 2,4,6 |
| RSTA | Read Status Register A | 1, 11 |
| RSTB | Read Status Register B | 1,11 |
| SE | Select Error Leve! | 2,6 |
| SEARCH | Search Mode | 2, 4, 11 |
| SEL (0), (1) | Select Error | 6, 11, 12 |
| SH DTB | Shift the Data Buffer | 5,6,8 |
| SHEN | Shift Enable | 5,8 |
| SH ST | Shift the State Generator | 1,7 |
| SH ST - B | Shift the State Generator Buffer | 1,7 |
| SHIFT CK | Shift Checksum State | 5,7 |
| SKP RQ | Skip Request | 1, 11 |
| SPDY | Speed Delay | 3 |
| ST BLK MK (0), (1) | Block Mark State | 5, 6, 7, 12 |
| ST CK (0), (1) | Checksum State | 4, 5, 6, 7, 12 |
| ST CK 0 P | Checksum Stare Pulse | 4 |
| ST DATA | Data State | 5 |
| ST FINAL (0), (1) | Final State | 4,5,7,9, 12 |
| ST IDLE (0), (1) | Idle Stare | 5, 6, 7, 9, 12 |
| ST REV CK | Reverse Checksum State | 4; 5, 7, 12 |
| SWTM | Write Timing \& Mark Track Switch | 3,5,6, 12 |
| SYNC | Synchronize | 4,7 |
| SYNC - P | Sync Pulse | 4 |
| SYNC EN | Enable Synchronization | 7 |
| T00 | Transport 0 | 2, 12 |

Table 7-1 (Cont)
TC08, TC08/N Signals

| Signal Mnemonic | Signal Name | TC08 Print |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| T01 | Transport 1 | 2, 12 |
| T02 | Transport 2 | 2, 12 |
| T03 | Transport 3 | 2, 12 |
| T04 | Transport 4 | 2, 12 |
| T05 | Transport 5 | 2, 12 |
| T06 | Transport 6 | 2, 12 |
| T07 | Transport 7 | 2, 12 |
| T FWD | Move Transport Forward | 2, 12 |
| T GO | Start the Transport | 2, 12 |
| T PWR CLR | Transport Power Clear | 2, 12 |
| T REV | Transport Move Reverse | 2, 12 |
| T SINGLE UNIT | Transport Single Unit | 6, 12 |
| T STOP | Stop the Transport | 2, 12 |
| T TRK (0), (1) | Timing Track Head | 3, 10 |
| T WRITE OK | Transport Write OK Switch | 2, 12 |
| TIM (0), (1) | Timing Error | 6, 11, 12 |
| TM EN | Enable Write Timing \& Mark | 3, 10 |
| TP 00 | Timing Pulse 0 | 3,4,5,6,7 |
| TP 00 A | Timing Pulse 0 Delayed | 3,5,9 |
| TPO1 | Timing Pulse 1 | 3,4,5, 7, 9 |
| TPOIA | Timing Pulse 1 Delayed | 3,4,9 |
| TS03 | PDP-8 Timing Pulse 3 | 1, 11 |
| $U+M D Y$ | Unit or Motion Delay | 3 |
| USR 00 - USR 02 | Unit Select Register | 2, 11, 12 |
| UTS (0) | Up to Speed Reset | 3 |
| UTS (1) | Up to Speed Set | 3,5,12 |
| W + UTS | Write Enable or Up to Speed | 3 |
| W-INH (0), (1) | Write Inhibit | 4,5 |
| W01(1) - W09(1) | Window Register Bits 1-9 | 7,12 |
| WBOO - WBO2 | Write Buffer | 8, 9, 10, 12 |
| WC (0), (1) | Word Count Overflow | 1,4,5,12 |
| WCO | Word Count Overflow Pulse | 1 |

Table 7-1 (Cont)
TC08, TC08/N Signals

| Signal Mnemonic | Signal Name | TC08 Print |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| WR EN (0), (1) | Write Enable | $3,5,9,10,12$ |
| WRITE ALL | Write All Mode | 2, 4, 5 |
| WRITE DATA | Write Data Mode | 2,4,5 |
| WRITE OK | Write OK | 2,5,6 |
| WRITE OK + UTS | Write OK or Up to Speed | 5 |
| WRTM | Write Timing and Mark Track | 2,3,5,6 |
| WRTM + FR03 | Write Timing and Mark or Function Register \#3 | 2,4 |
| XOR TO LPB | Exclusive OR Contents to the Longitudinal Parity Buffer | 9 |
| XSA DY | XOR Status A Time Delayed | 2,6 |
| XSAD | XOR Status A Pulse Delayed | 1,6 |
| XSTA | Exclusive OR Status $A$ Register | 1,2,3,6 |
| XTDY | Cross Talk Delay | 3 |

Table 7-2
Engineering Drawings

| Drawing No. | Title | Page |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A-ML-TC08-0 | Master Drawing List, DECtape Control | $7-9$ |
| A-PL-TC08-0-0 | DECtape Control | $7-10$ |
| A-PL-7006394-0-0 | Wired Assembly TC08 | $7-11$ |
| A-SP-TC08-0-16 | Check-out Procedure (4 Sheets) | $7-12$ |
| B-CS-G775-0-1 | Connector Card Indicator Panel G775 | $7-16$ |
| B-CS-G879-0-1 | Transport Detector G879 | $7-17$ |
| B-CS-G888-0-1 | Manchester Reader/Writer G888 | $7-18$ |
| B-CS-W032-0-1 | Connector W032 | $7-19$ |
| B-CS-716-B-1 | Circuit Schematic 716B | $7-20$ |
| C-CS-M100-0-1 | Bus Data Interface M100 | $7-21$ |
| C-CS-M102-0-1 | Device Selector M102 | $7-22$ |
| C-CS-M623-0-1 | Bus Driver M623 | $7-23$ |
| C-CS-M633-0-1 | Negative Bus Driver M633 | $7-24$ |

Table 7-2 (Cont)
Engineering Drawings

| Drawing No. | Title | Page |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| D-CS-M228-0-1 | Mark Track Decoder M228 | $7-25$ |
| D-UA-TC08-0-0 | DECtape Control | $7-27$ |
| D-BS-TC08-0-1 | I/O Control | $7-29$ |
| D-BS-TC08-0-2 | Status A | $7-31$ |
| D-BS-TC08-0-3 | TP Generator | $7-33$ |
| D-BS-TC08-0-4 | Flags | $7-35$ |
| D-BS-TC08-0-5 | Control | $7-37$ |
| D-BS-TC08-0-6 | Errors | $7-39$ |
| D-BS-TC08-0-7 | Mark Track Decode | $7-41$ |
| D-BS-TC08-0-8 | DTB/WB | $7-43$ |
| D-BS-TC08-0-9 | LPB | $7-45$ |
| D-BS-TC08-0-10 | I/O Bus Invts/Ind Dvrs | $7-47$ |
| D-BS-TC08-0-11 | I/O Bus Drive Receive | $7-49$ |
| D-BS-TC08-0-12 | I/O Bus Connectors | $7-51$ |
| D-AD-7006394-0-0 | Wired Assembly TC08 | $7-53$ |
| D-DI-TC08-0-15 | DECtape Control | $7-55$ |
| D-TD-TC08-0-17 | TC08 Timing | $7-57$ |
| K-MU-TC08-0-13 | Module Utilization List | $7-59$ |
| K-PL-TC08-0-13 | Module Utilization List | $7-59$ |
| K-WL-TC08-0-14 | Wire List TC08 | $7-60$ |





[^0]


```
TITLE TCO8 & TCO8N CHECKOUT PROCEDURE
```

7. By removing the G888 in slot Al8 and adding a temporary jumper between DI4K2 and Dl4U1, and also changing address 13 of the previous program to ALL ZERO's!! The program may be used to fire the SP DY which should now be set to the value noted on the prints. After the SP DY is set, remove the jumper, insert the G888 back into slot Al8, and replace the original contents of address 13 ( $\varnothing 4 \emptyset \varnothing$ ).
8. By adding the following instructions to the previous program, a tape rocking program can be produced. Start program at location 16.

| $\varnothing \varnothing 16$ | $76 \varnothing \varnothing$ | CLA |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\varnothing \varnothing 17$ | $1 \varnothing 23$ | TAD |
| $\varnothing \varnothing 2 \varnothing$ | 6766 | DTLA |
| $\varnothing \varnothing 21$ | $5 \varnothing \varnothing \varnothing$ | JMP START |
| $\varnothing \varnothing 22$ | $74 \varnothing 2$ | HLT I/O SKIP |
| $\varnothing \varnothing 23$ | $\varnothing 2 \varnothing \varnothing$ |  |

9. By using the following program the write timing and mark track clock may be enabled:
$\begin{array}{lll}\text { start } & \text { бøø } & 1 \not \varnothing \varnothing 4 \\ \varnothing \varnothing \varnothing 1 & 6766 & \text { TAD } \\ \varnothing \varnothing \varnothing 2 & 6764 & \text { DTLA } \\ \varnothing \varnothing \varnothing 3 & 5 \varnothing \varnothing 2 & \text { JMP } .-1 \\ \varnothing \varnothing \varnothing 4 & \varnothing 26 \varnothing & \end{array}$
Place unit 8 on-line and write enabled. Place WRTM normal switch in the WRTM position. Start the program. The clock should be set to the valve noted on the prints.

## D. BASIC TESTING

1. The TCOl basic exerciser (Maindec-08-D3BB-D) provides a comprehensive test procedure. The tests also follow in a logical sequence of testing. If this sequence is followed, checkout time and problems will be held to a minimum.
2. After all tests of the basic exerciser have been run correctly, the DECtape formatter (DEC-08-EUFA-D) should be run.
3. DECtrex 1 (Maindec-08-D3RA-D) should be made to run error free.
4. The DECtape Library System (DEC-08-SUAI-IA) should now be tried. And made to run correctly.

| Dave Lazuka |
| :--- |
| DEC FORM NO <br> DRA 108A |






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## Digital Equipment Corporation Maynard, Massachusetts

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