February 2004
Issue 124

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## **New Projects for 2004**

FIGUK magazine:

**New Project: the FIG-UK CD** 

New Project: F11-UK Becomes F12-UK

A Virtual Nondeterministic Machine in Forth

Across the Big Teich

**Vierte Dimension 3/2003** 

Forthwrite 124 — Feburary 2004

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# Forthwrite February 2004

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## Editorial

The first Issue of 2004 sees the start of two exciting new projects for FIG UK.

One of the subjects for discussion at the AGM was the production of a CD of material for members. Jeremy outlines the committee's ideas and Douglas reports on the considerable progress made so far.

FIG UK needs input from all members on this important new project so a competition and a prize is announced in these pages.

With stocks of the first batch of F11-UK single board microcomputer now being exhausted, Jeremy Fowell has some good news about a new development in embedding computing.

Also in this issue, James Boyd concludes his article on virtual nondeterministic machines in Forth. It will be interesting to see what other applications people find for the technique.

I cannot end this editorial without thanking Douglas Neale and the printers for turning my electronic file for the last issue into paper so smartly. Most of you will have received your copy before Christmas. With things being so busy at that time I feared that it might not arrive before the end of 2003.

If you have any material for publication in the next issue please send it to me by Wednesday  $24^{th}$  March.

Don't forget the monthly IRC session. Our next one is Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2004 on the IRC server called "IRCNet", channel #FIGUK from 9:00pm UT.

February is a little late to be wishing everyone a Happy New year, but all the same, Good Programming and until next time, sally Forth,

Graeme Dunbar



### Forth News

#### Graeme Dunbar

A roundup of news and events from around the Forth world.

#### **Forth Events**

#### German Forth Conference - 20FG04

The annual conference of the German FIG takes place on the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of April. This is their 20<sup>th</sup> annual conference and they extend their welcome to all FIG UK members. For further information see Fred Behringer's report in this issue.

#### euroFORTH 2004

The likely dates for this euroFORTH conference are the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2004, to take place at Castle Dagstuhl in Saarland, Germany. For anyone considering taking part there is a mailing list for delegates at: <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/euroforth/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/euroforth/</a>

### FIG UK 25th Anniversary Reunion

FIG UK will be holding its Silver Jubilee this November. Details to follow.

### **Forth People**

#### FIG UK Webmaster

Jenny Brien, our webmaster has recently undergone major surgery and is presently convalescing. I am sure you will all join the committee in wishing her a full and speedy recovery.

Jenny reports *she* is doing fine, but her email account is being plagued by spam and asks that anyone emailing her put "FIGUK" in the subject header. She has a dial-up connection, and her spam filter will delete anything it does not recognise as genuine without downloading it.

#### **Forth Resources**

#### Win32Forth

Dave Pochin reports that his Win32Forth Tutorial has been revised and updated. The latest edition (released in December 2003) now covers Win32Forth v6.7001 and can be found at: <a href="http://www.sunterr.demon.co.uk/">http://www.sunterr.demon.co.uk/</a>

#### From F11-UK to F12-UK

As reported in the last issue, all the F11-UK microcontroller boards from the first run have been sold. Jeremy Fowell reports on an exciting new development in this issue. Owners of the F11-UK may rest assured that the board will continue to be supported. A new batch of printed circuit boards has been ordered so the F11-UK kit will still be available.

### **New Project: F11-UK Becomes F12-UK**

### Jeremy Fowell

As reported in Issue 123 of Forthwrite the first production run of this single board computer kit has sold out, the last one going to Australia. This was a good time to look at the hardware design and see if some improvements should be made. Quite a lot of ideas have been discussed on the F11-UK mailing list and taking these into account three main changes looked important:

- 1. Increase the number of I/O lines from 20 to maybe 40.
- 2. Increase the FLASH memory from 32k to 128k bytes. This is already included on the board but only the first 32k is presently used.
- 3. Add a real-time clock IC powered from the existing RAM back-up battery. This could be used, for example, to wake up the microcontroller every 5 seconds to collect data. This would enable true low-power operation and the board could be powered from a small battery.

And of course it would be good to keep the board size, external connections and price all unchanged. I think it could be done but it gets complicated. (1) and (2) would be best achieved by using some sort of programmable logic device to handle the extra glue logic required. Hard to solder surface mount parts would be needed to keep the size under control. The whole thing begins to loose the simplicity of a minimal system.

After working on this for a while I took a look at the HC12, the upgrade path from the HC11 that Motorola recommends. From the family of different versions the most interesting ones are the new HCS12 parts. Most of the things we need apart from the real-time clock are provided on one chip which simplifies the circuit board quite a bit.

### Advantages of the HCS12:

- 256k bytes FLASH memory and 12k bytes RAM.
- Very fast: executes 25 instructions per micro-second (40 ns per instruction)
- Dual 8-input 10-bit analog-to-digital converters.
- Over 60 I/O lines (we will not use them all).
- 2 RS232 serial ports
- Several other serial ports (SPI, IIC, CAN).
- 8 timer inputs.
- 8 PWM timer outputs.

- Same CPU registers as HC11 so will run HC11 code.
- All instructions are 16-bit.
- Fuzzy Logic instructions included.
- Fast 32 x 16-bit signed divide  $(0.5\mu s)$ . [HC11 =  $18.5\mu s$  and that's much faster than any of the PIC family].

### Disadvantages of the HCS12:

- It is a complex device.
- The top of the range part costs around £20 each (but we save on the cost of external memory ICs etc.).
- Supplied in a surface mount package of the type that will not fit in a low cost socket.

The final argument for changing to the HCS12 is that it could help us reach a wider audience. Motorola has come up with an excellent design here and it seems to be generating quite a bit of interest.

#### The Proposed F12-UK Board:

- Using mainly surface mount parts would enable the board size to be reduced which would in turn help to offset the higher cost of the new processor.
- Surface mounting of components means that it would be best to supply the board preassembled and tested with PygmyHC12 already loaded.
- I/O lines would be buffered with standard logic ICs to protect the expensive CPU.
- The HCS12 processor will be mounted on a small sub-board connected to the main PCB via header pins on a 0.1 inch pitch. This would be a plugable unit which would provide the lowest cost method of replacing the HCS12 should this ever be necessary. A secondary benefit would be the option to plug in a lower cost version of the HCS12.
- The existing DIN41612 edge connector will be retained but with more pins fitted to handle the increased number of I/O lines.
- The price will be as near as possible to the current £49.

Since the HCS12 represents a significant change I have decided to continue making the F11-UK kit available.

So what do you think? Comments would be most welcome either via email to me or the F11-UK mailing list at <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fig-forth-uk/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fig-forth-uk/</a>.

### A Virtual Nondeterministic Machine in Forth

### James A. Boyd

In the previous issue, James introduced the technique and outlined his implementation. In this concluding part he discusses the implementation and performance of the software.

### Theory of Operation and Usage

#### Virtual Nondeterministic Machine Theory of Operation

Although the virtual nondeterministic machine uses the same theoretical framework as a nondeterministic machine it's just a simulation. The nondeterministic behavior is simulated by implementing a non-sequential search of the solution space with implicit backtracking if a choice is not "correct". This allows the same expressiveness achieved with a nondeterministic machine and usually requires fewer steps to a solution than a deterministic algorithm requires. The nondeterministic algorithm for the eight queens problem found a solution in only 58 tries compared to 876 tries for the deterministic algorithm.

The implicit backtracking is implemented by saving the machine state (the data and return stacks) as well as a list of valid choices in a history stack each time choice is executed. The execution of failure forces backtracking to the most recently saved history by restoring the machine state, then removing one of the choices. It's as if failure never occurred and the latest occurrence of choice simply made a different choice than the one which forced backtracking. If the choices for a particular instance of choice are exhausted then the machine state for the previous choice is restored. Implicit backtracking occurs as long as there is a valid choice. Exhausting all the choices means there were no choices leading to a valid solution and execution resumes with the word after failure. Note that although backtracking is used it is handled by the virtual nondeterministic machine and is nearly transparent. The execution of success empties the history buffer to terminate the nondeterministic behavior.

The need to save history data is one disadvantage of simulating the behavior of a nondeterministic machine. An actual nondeterministic machine needs no history data because the choice it makes is always "correct" if such a choice exists. At present such a machine only exists in a theoretical framework.

Normally the machine state consists of the contents of both stacks but some algorithms may need other areas of memory saved as part of the machine state. Therefore, two deferred words have been provided for the code needed to save and restore other data structures SaveOther and RestoreOther. The fourth example in the file **VNMMISC.F** shows how to use these to words. Note that extra data is restored in the reverse order it is saved.

Data structures which are not part of the machine state must be used with caution. An array such as the queens array used in the N queens problem works fine because items (the queens) are added sequentially. Data structures with items which are shuffled or exchanged must be part of the machine state either by being placed on the stack or explicitly making them a part of the machine state by including code to save and restore them. It would be prudent to limit what is included as part of the machine state to the minimum needed to avoid exhausting room for the history data.

The N queens problem is the main demo for this paper. The problem has a time to solution which is irregular but appears to increase exponentially with problem size. The nondeterministic version of this problem has a time to solution which appears to be polynomial but not as low an order as a theoretical nondeterministic machine.

The best candidates for a virtual nondeterministic machine seem to be problems whose best algorithms have a time which is exponential or polynomial of large degree. The max clique problem and the knapsack problem <sup>[1]</sup> are two problems whose best algorithms are exponential yet have a time to solution which is polynomial for nondeterministic versions of these algorithms. These as well as other nondeterministic algorithms mentioned in <u>Fundamentals of Computer Algorithms</u> <sup>[1]</sup> may work well with a virtual nondeterministic machine.

#### Virtual Nondeterministic Machine Compared to Nondeterministic Control Words

L. L. Odette gave us nondeterministic control words; an interesting control structure which promised to increase the expressive power of Forth. It also had implicit backtracking with a non-sequential search of the solution space.

The nondeterministic word nqueens is very similar in appearance to Odette's queensoln. They both have a nondeterministic nature. The big difference between nqueens and queensoln is the use of a different theoretical framework for a starting place.

Odette's nondeterministic control words are based on the idea of a "coin tossing controller" which randomly chooses one of two branches to take. Odette's coin tossing controller meets the theoretical expectations of such a controller except for not having a true random number generator; therefore it is difficult to see how its performance can be improved.

The virtual nondeterministic machine is based on a nondeterministic machine as described by Horowitz and Sahni. The virtual nondeterministic machine shows some of the promise of a nondeterministic machine yet the need for improvement is clearly visible. Although the virtual nondeterministic machine outperforms Odette's nondeterministic control words its performance can be improved by bringing its behavior closer to the theoretical behavior of a nondeterministic machine.

Both nondeterministic methods have a probabilistic nature. Their nondeterministic nature implies a non-sequential search of the solution space for a particular problem. The virtual nondeterministic machine performs as well as it does because its choices are more random.

randomn is Odette's nondeterministic number generator. *Table 1* is a sample output of choice versus randomn; the code is in the second example in the file **VNMMISC.F**.

Test of first choice for two nondeterministic words randomn and choice.

50 R	andomnTe	st							
9998	9999	9999	9997	10000	10000	9998	10000	9998	9999
10000	10000	10000	9998	10000	9998	10000	10000	9998	9998
9999	9997	9999	10000	10000	10000	10000	9999	10000	10000
9999	10000	10000	10000	9998	9999	10000	9999	10000	10000
9998	9999	10000	9997	10000	9996	10000	10000	9999	9997
50 CI	hoiceTest	t							
3737	4547	9179	4726	7880	4659	8727	3934	4200	1362
9125	8719	9417	4501	839	7674	7749	1419	1842	6892
914	6961	7602	9968	8134	3469	1084	7994	6123	787
2761	9566	9104	6261	600	775	8793	4732	69	5219
4410	8545	4139	3987	2673	7543	3276	5676	7803	9071

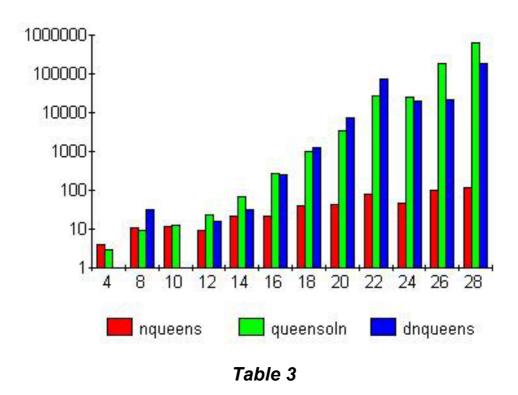
Table 1

The tests consist of displaying the first choice for choice and randomn with an input of 10,000 and clearing the history, or backtracking, data for each iteration. Both tests were run for fifty iterations. The nondeterministic control word randomn is severely biased toward the high end; about half of the time the output was 10,000 and a quarter of the time it was 9999. The output of choice appears quite random and is only limited by the randomness of the number generator used in choice#. The choice is also quite random (as limited by the number generator) for each instance of backtracking.

Times for three N queens algorithms. All times are in milliseconds on a 1.6 GHz machine.								
queens	nqueens			queensoln	deter- ministic			
	fast	average	slow	fast	average	slow		
4	0	4	16	0	3	16	0	
8	0	11	32	0	9	16	31	
10	0	12	16	0	13	16	0	
12	0	9	32	0	24	47	16	
14	0	21	109	0	66	438	31	
16	0	21	47	0	272	1313	250	
18	0	39	203	0	1036	3656	1250	
20	0	42	500	47	3452	15297	7125	
22	15	78	750	297	26403	147437	73922	
24	15	48	172	79	24604	143766	19953	
26	15	98	485	563	191463	1082562	22047	
28	16	121	1125	27672	628442	1713859	188750	

Table 2

**Table 2** is a table of the average, fastest, and slowest times for the N queen's problem using nqueens, queensoln, and a deterministic method. **Table 3** is a chart of the average times using a logarithmic scale for the vertical axis. The time to solution for the deterministic n queens problem and queensoln appears to increase exponentially with problem size while the time to solution for the nondeterministic word nqueens appears to increase according to a third or fourth degree polynomial function of problem size. One solution for the 100 queens problem was even found by nqueens in about three minutes running on a Commodore 64! Running on Win32Forth, a solution for the 500 queens problem was found in under 18 seconds! An actual nondeterministic machine would have a time to solution for the N queens problem which would increase according to a second degree polynomial function of input size.



**Table 4** is a chart of history memory used by nqueens and queensoln. For all tests, queensoln was modified to keep the queens in an array instead of the stack (this actually helped the performance of queensoln) and all history data was removed prior to each run. The virtual nondeterministic machine clearly requires less memory than Nondeterministic Control Words. Even though more data is stored by choice than Odette's oneof, choice is executed far less frequently.

Another demo of Odette's is list permutation. The same concept can be written to work with a virtual nondeterministic machine instead of nondeterministic control words. The virtual nondeterministic machine version of list permutation is given as the third example in the file **VNMMISC.F**.

One should be careful when trying to implement Odette's code on Win32Forth. Win32Forth uses relative addressing but the return stack holds absolute addresses.

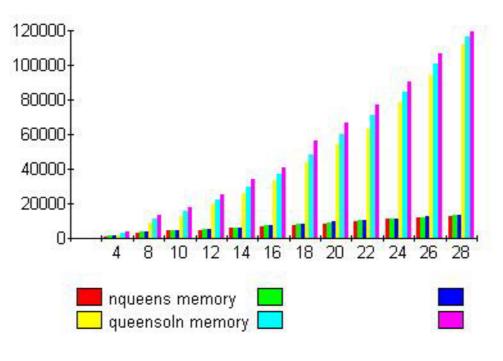


Table 4

#### **Exploiting Implementation**

The way the virtual nondeterministic machine is implemented can be exploited to achieve useful results. When a nondeterministic algorithm which has not been terminated with success returns an answer, the algorithm can be forced to search for another answer by typing failure at the keyboard or using failure in a program which calls the nondeterministic algorithm. The same idea can be used with Odette's Nondeterministic Control Words. This is how the permute example works.

We must keep in mind that this would not work with an actual nondeterministic machine. Any occurrence of failure before success would cause the algorithm to fail. The same technique of using failure to force backtracking is used as the first example in **VNMMISC.F** as a simple test of the nondeterministic operations to make sure they work. When ShuffleTest is executed the numbers zero through ten will be displayed in random order.

#### Multitasking

Multitasking with a virtual nondeterministic machine should be handled carefully if at all because of the implicit manipulation of the stacks. The virtual nondeterministic machine should work without modification as long as the nondeterministic task is independent of any other tasks. If there is more than one nondeterministic task then the buffer words need implemented so that each nondeterministic task has its own buffer.

If there is only one buffer then only the task running the nondeterministic algorithm can execute failure or the machine state saved with the latest occurrence of choice will be

restored to the stacks of the task which executes failure. This regrettably precludes running a nondeterministic algorithm in a background task and forcing backtracking to another solution from the console.

#### **Implementation**

#### Virtual Nondeterministic Machine Buffer Interface

Unlike Odette's nondeterministic control words, the history data for the virtual nondeterministic machine is saved in a buffer instead of compiling it on top of the dictionary. Using the standard words allocate, resize, and free the history buffer is only expanded as needed and reclaimed when an algorithm concludes. All the words that would need changed if the buffer implementation is changed have been grouped together in the file **VNMHISTORYBUFFER.F**. Implementation specific areas such as multitasking have been avoided.

#### Saving and Restoring the Stacks

The words <code>SaveDataStack</code>, <code>SaveReturn</code>, <code>RestoreDataStack</code> and <code>RestoreReturn</code> are specific to Win32Forth. Slower versions are provided in the file <code>VNMSTACKS.F</code> which are more generic but still require the return stack is used for return addresses. Win32Forth and one of the slow versions require the following words:

- sp0 and rp0 are usually two user variables which hold the initialization addresses for both stacks (where to reset the stack pointers).
- sp! sets the data stack pointer to the value on the data stack.
- rp! sets the return stack pointer to the value on the data stack.
- sp@ and rp@ return the address of the data and return stack pointers (top of stack). The phrase rp@ @ performs the same function as r@ and the phrase sp@ @ performs the same function as dup.

#### The Main Virtual Nondeterministic Machine Operations

choice takes a number from the data stack and saves history data with a set from zero to N inclusive and selects one element from that set. The stack depth is first checked by choice to make sure there is at least one number on the data stack to specify the size of the set. The CFA of expand is saved on the return stack before a copy of the return stack is saved and discarded afterwards. The group size is temporarily stored on the return stack while a copy of the data stack is saved. Finally the set (or group) data is generated and saved by group with the first choice left on the data stack.

group generates the group data by saving an offset into the yet to be generated group data and the last element of the group. group uses the number generator choice# to pick an offset into the group data and use that offset to produce the number which would be at that offset. The entire list of possible choices is not generated until failure occurs when it is needed.

expand decompresses the group data using generate, puts the CFA of (choice) on top of the saved return stack in the history buffer, and calls (choice) to select one element. The history data for the latest occurrence of choice is removed by the backtracking. expand and (choice) preserve the history data by switching the main and auxiliary pointers with the buffer interface word pswitch if there are valid untried choices for the latest occurrence of choice.

generate (n --) places **n** cells on the history stack from zero to **n-1** in ascending order.

failure executes (failure) and displays the message "No Solution". The nondeterministic behavior of failure is factored into (failure) in case the message is not desired. (failure) has two different behaviours depending on whether there is any history data. If there is history data it sets the auxiliary pointer to the same value as the main pointer, skips the group data, and restores both stacks. The process of restoring the machine state leaves the main pointer where it was just prior to saving the latest chunk of history data effectively removing it. The CFA on the return stack is removed and executed. Program flow resumes where it left off when the machine state was saved and does not resume after (failure). If there is no history data (failure) executes success to terminate any nondeterministic behavior. Program flow resumes with the word which executed (failure).

**success** resets SaveOther and RestoreOther to a no-op and executes remove to empty the buffer thereby terminating any nondeterministic behavior. If any data other than the stacks is to be saved as part of the machine state then SaveOther and RestoreOther must be initialized after any initial success and before the first occurrence of choice.

#### Extensions to the Virtual Nondeterministic Machine

Other words can be added to the virtual nondeterministic machine to extend its functionality. The new words need to set up the history data in an appropriate form for failure. The CFA of the word to be executed when failure occurs must be placed on the return stack before SaveReturn is executed and then removed. A CFA **must** be placed on the return stack even if it is the CFA of noop a system no-op. Any parameters not meant to be kept on the data stack (such as group size) must be temporarily removed while SaveData is executed. Finally a group is setup either by calling group with a size on the stack; by generating a custom group (such as a list of CFAs) and saving the size; or by storing a size of zero for no group. Note that since failure does not preserve the history data when it is executed, the word with its CFA saved with the return stack needs to take care of this if failure is to restore the same history the next time it is executed.

suspend is a handy utility to use in a program instead of aborting when a key is pressed. It saves one instance of history data with a group size of zero; displays the contents of the data stack and aborts. A no-op is saved on the return stack since the history data saved by suspend does not need preserved. The program resumes where it was suspended regardless of recursion or stack depth when failure is executed. This is handy to use to stop a program to check how it is functioning, check some variables and then resume execution by typing failure at the keyboard and it makes a nice example of how to set up the history data for failure. It is also quite useful to use suspend in a program instead of abort just in case a key is pressed by accident.

#### **Further Research**

#### Parallel Processing

Due to the probabilistic nature of the virtual nondeterministic machine the time to solve a given problem will be different each time. As can be seen from *Table 2*, the larger the N queens problem the larger the ratio of the average to fastest solution. By the time the problem size reached fifty queens the fastest fifty queens problem was over four hundred times faster than the average. The same phenomenon would occur if several different computers solved the same problem nondeterministically as long as each random number generator had a different seed value. The fastest times for all the nqueens problems from 8 to 50 was under 17 milliseconds! This can be exploited to program a parallel computer to solve a nondeterministic algorithm by having each processor solve the entire problem but with a different seed value for each random number generator. The first processor to finish would signal the main processor.

#### Neural Network Number Generator

One possibility to enhance the performance of the virtual nondeterministic machine is to use a neural network to generate the random numbers. choice, success and failure would be modified to send a signal to an output port to train the network. The number generating word could "clock" the network (make it go through one instance of signal propagation) after it gets the network's output. success could signal the ending or beginning of a new algorithm and the number of failures for each occurrence of choice could be the training signal, the lower the number of failures the better the network's output. It might be possible for a sophisticated enough network to learn the "pattern" of the correct solution and start making better guesses.

#### References

- [1] Fundamentals of Computer Algorithms by Ellis Horowitz and Sartaj Sahni
- [2] <u>Nondeterministic Control Words in Forth</u> by L. L. Odette Dr. Dobbs Journal September 1983

### **Appendix: list of files**

This is a list of all files included in the two parts of this article.

#### Published in issue 123

VNM.F The nondeterministic machine source code

VNMHISTORYBUFFER.F Words needed by VNM.F NONSTANDARFD.F Words needed by VNM.F

NQUEENS.F The NQueens problem given as an example of the use of VNM.F

#### Published in this issue

VNMMISC.F Miscellaneous examples of the use of the nondeterministic words

defined in VNM.F.

VNMSTACKS.F Generic stack words.

VNMDEMOS.F Additional demonstration examples of the use of the

nondeterministic machine words.

BADQUEENS.F An example of what happens when an erroneous attempt to show

partial results is made.

**GFORTHWORDS.F** 

### File: VNMMISC.F (sheet 1 of 2)

Miscellaneous examples of the use of the nondeterministic words defined in VNM.F.

### File: VNMMISC.F (sheet 2 of 2)

```
\ Example two -- test of choice vs. randomn
: ChoiceTest ( n -- ) success cr
       0 do 10000 choice 8 .r success 16 ?cr loop;
\ RandomnTest requires L. L. Odettes Nondeterministic Control Words
\ : RandomnTest ( n -- ) cr
       0 do 0 , 10000 randomn 8 .r new 16 ?cr loop ;
\ Example three -- Odette's permute example using choice
: -roll \setminus the following has no net stack effect: n roll n -roll
       begin ?dup while 3 roll >r 1- repeat
       begin ?dup while r> swap 1- repeat;
: insert
       1+ dup>r dup roll
       swap 1- choice -roll
: permute ( N1 ... Nm m -- N1 ... Nm m )
       success dup if 1- recurse insert then;
: printpermute ( N1 ... Nm m -- )
       cr 0 ?do 3 .r loop;
: ptest ( N1 ... Nm -- )
       depth dup>r permute key? if suspend then
       printpermute (failure)
       cr ." No more permutations for" r> 3 .r ." numbers";
\ Example four -- Demo how to use SaveOther and RestoreOther
\ three byte arrays
: array create allot; \ \ simple byte arrays 20 array small
50 array large
40 array medium
\ m>history and mhistory> take an address and byte count as parameters
: SaveArrays
       small 20 m>history
       medium 40 m>history
       large 50 m>history;
: RestoreArrays
       large 50 mhistory>
       medium 40 mhistory>
       small 20 mhistory>;
: IncludeMyArrays ( -- )
       ['] SaveArrays is SaveOther
        ['] RestoreArrays is RestoreOther;
\ trivial example
: demo ( n n2 -- ) success IncludeMyArrays
       choice swap choice cr.s + 20 = 0 = if failure
       success ;
```

### File: VNMSTACKS.F (sheet 1 of 1)

Generic stack words.

```
\ Alternate stack saving and restoring words
\ James Boyd September 13th, 2003 - 3:25
: -?rdepth C" rdepth" FIND NIP 0= ;
-?rdepth [IF]
( requires -- rp0 rp@ cell )
: (NestDepth) ( -- n ) rp0 @ rp@ - cell / ;
: NestDepth ( -- n ) (NestDepth) rp0 @ rp@ - cell / -;
: m- NestDepth 0 do postpone 1- loop; immediate
: rdepth ( -- n ) rp0 @ rp@ - cell / m-;
[ELSE]
( requires -- rdepth )
: (NestDepth) ( -- n ) rdepth ;
: NestDepth ( -- ) (NestDepth) rdepth - ;
[THEN]
       NestDepth 0 do postpone r> loop; immediate
: mr>
: m>r NestDepth 0 do postpone >r loop; immediate
: rStackPurge mr>
      begin rdepth while r> drop repeat
: (RestoreReturn) mr> history>
      begin ?dup while history> >r 1- repeat
: RestoreReturn mr> rStackPurge (RestoreReturn) m>r;
: SaveReturn mr> 0
      begin rdepth while r> >history 1+ repeat
       >history main>aux (RestoreReturn) pswitch m>r;
: depth ( -- n ) sp@ sp0 @ swap - cell / ;
: StackPurge begin depth while drop repeat;
: (RestoreDataStack) history> 0 ?do history> loop;
: SaveDataStack 0
       begin depth 1- while swap >history 1+
       >history main>aux (RestoreDataStack) pswitch;
```

### File: VNMDEMOS.F (sheet 1 of 1)

Additional demonstration examples of the use of the nondeterministic machine words.

```
\ Some more VNM stuff
            October 31st, 2003 - 19:15
\ James Boyd
: sqrt ( n -- n2 ) s>f fsqrt f>s;
: ?prime (n -- f) \setminus returns false flag for 0, 1 and negative numbers
       dup 2 < if
                  drop false exit
                                    then
       dup sqrt 1+ 2 ?do dup i mod 0= if 0= unloop exit then loop 0<> ;
: ?even ( n -- f ) \ returns true flag if n is even
       1 and 0 = ;
\ Always chooses an even number
: evenDemo ( n -- )
       choice dup ?even
       if
             success .
             failure drop
       else
       then ;
: oddDemo (n --)
       choice dup ?even
       if failure drop
       else
             success .
       then ;
\ Always chooses a prime number -- range 0 - n
: primeDemo (n -- n2 f) \ returns n2 and a flag -- true if n2 is prime
       choice dup ?prime dup
       if
             success
       else
             failure
\ Always chooses two primes such that the second prime is greater than 3 * the
\ first prime
: prime2Demo ( n -- )
       dup choice dup ?prime 0= if failure 2drop exit then
       swap choice dup ?prime 0= if failure 2drop exit then
       2dup swap 3 * <
             failure 2drop
              success swap cr 8 .r 8 .r
       else
       then ;
\ Always chooses a number such that when added to n, the result is prime.
: prime3Demo ( n n2 -- n3 flag ) \setminus returns n3 and flag -- true if n3 is prime
       choice + dup ?prime dup
       if success else failure then;
```

### File: BADQUEENS.F (sheet 1 of 1)

An example of what happens when an erroneous attempt to show partial results is made.

```
\ nqueens with mistake
\ James Boyd November 11th, 2003 - 3:39
needs nqueens.f
Comment:
       Printing partial results with a nondeterministic machine is a bad idea.
       In the file VNMMISC.F ShuffleTest displays partial results to test the
virtual nondeterministic machine.
       In the same file Demo displays the stack to show what the virtual
nondeterministic machine is doing.
Comment:
\ prints partial results, or tries to. Run to see the mess!
\ All the bad version does different is print a partial result
\ before failure with the result that a lot of nonsense is displayed.
: (badnqueens) ( n -- )
       ?dup 0= if cr ." No solution for zero queens" exit then
       dup setQueenSize
               ( n-1 column )
       1- 0
       begin
               over choice
                               \ printing partial results is not a good idea!
               attacks? (n-1 column queen f)
                      failure 2drop drop
                       exit
               then
               addqueen 2dup < (n-1 column f)
               (n-1 n)
       space showqueens
                         drop ;
: badnqueens ( n -- ) success (badnqueens) success ;
cr cr
8 badnqueens
10 badnqueens
```

### File: GFORTHWORDS.F (sheet 1 of 1)

Words need to convert the code to Gforth.

### Letters

The Editor is always pleased to receive correspondence from members of the Forth community and email is undoubtedly the most convenient medium. Recently I received and passed on a request for information about Dave Pochin's Win32Forth tutorial which led to the following exchange. See this issue for news of a forthcoming article by Dave Pochin.

Hi!

Perhaps you can help me out.

I can not seem to find the win32forth tutorial by Dave Pochin. It can not be found on the Daemon site, and nor do

I see any other location for it. Would you know where it can be found?

**Thanks** 

Gerald King

Hi Gerald,

Thanks very much for your query. I've been busy revising the site for version 6...

The address is the same as before. www.sunterr.demon.co.uk

But all the old short cuts no longer work.

Just as I got this working, the faithful PC decided to have a battle between my Internet provider and my anti virus software, so I have been off line for nearly a fortnight. All is now sorted. Sorry for the delay.

Please let me know if you still have problems.

And email me any comments or suggestions about the new version.

The page does work, I have just checked it out

Regards.

Dave

### New Project: the FIG-UK CD

### Jeremy Fowell

This issue of Forthwrite sees the announcement of an important new project, our CD. The idea was the brainchild of Douglas Neale and Chris Jakeman and a topic of some enthusiastic discussion at the recent AGM. Since then Douglas has been hard at work turning the idea into reality, which is no small task.

It is planned to make the CD available to FIG UK members through the web site at: <a href="http://www.fig-uk.org">http://www.fig-uk.org</a> with payment by PayPal. The exact price has yet to be confirmed but will be fairly low.

### Generous Support

Already the content is impressive; the net has been cast far and wide. Stephen Pelc of MPE has generously agreed to the inclusion of a version of VFX Forth (see back cover). There is Tom Zimmer's Win32 Forth, Pygmy and F-PC. gForth and bigForth for Linux are there too. We have Forth Standards documents, articles about Forth, a book list and a list of Web sites. I think you get the idea.

The volume of material means that we would like our members to get involved as well. If you email Douglas at <a href="mailto:dneale@w58wmorden.demon.co.uk">dneale@w58wmorden.demon.co.uk</a> he will send you a list of all the files split into their directories. There are many files of Forth code that need to be examined to check

their suitability. Obviously this is time consuming to say the least so if there is an area you are familiar with or interested in please take a look through some of the files. Does the work seem to be well written or is it write-only code? If you have an Amiga machine, for example, perhaps you could run one of the applications and report your findings in about a paragraph.

Also as Douglas has said elsewhere in this issue, if you have ideas please let him know.

We hope this CD will build into a valuable reference work bringing together the best Forth code, documentation and information in one place. If you can, please get involved. Many hands will make lighter work.

### The FIG-UK CD: call for input

### **Douglas Neale**

At the last Fig UK AGM I was asked to build a Forth CD which we could sell to our members for a minimal sum. I have spent the intervening time putting together as much stuff as I could garner from our archives and various web sites. At present this amounts to nearly 200 Mb of material made up of various Forths for a wide variety of environments and processors, lots of documentation, including our own back issues from No 105, some Standards etc etc.

#### **CD Material**

The headings under which the current material is organised are as follows (in alpabetic order):

Applications, Cross Compilers, DOS Forths, Embedded and PDA forths, FAQ, Forth on the Internet, Forth Standards, ForthDimensions, Forthwrite Archives, Introduction, Linux Forths, Literature, Mac Forths, Member Stuff, Old Machines, Scientific and Windows Forths.

Because our archive PDF files only go back to issue 105, I am looking for suggestions to include articles from earlier issues since Chris Jakeman took over from Gil which you think merit including in this compendium.

We think the CD ought to include a recommended book list, so please tell me which Forth books you would recommend.

If you have ideas, suggestions or contributions to the CD please email or post them to me.

### Competition

Finally, just to encourage everyone to join in, there is our usual competition. In this case, we will award a free year's membership to the person who comes up with the best CD label for the CD. The winner will be chosen on the basis of merit and minimal printing time on my HP Ink Jet! The deadline for this competition, and anything you want included is one month from when you receive the next issue.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Douglas Neale.

(Editor's note: the directory listing itself runs to 37 pages – too big for inclusion in Forthwrite. Douglas asks that if you would like to see what is currently included on the CD then please contact him and he will email you a text file containing the complete directory listing.)

# Forth Gesellschaft 20FG04 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

### Fred Behringer

The German FIG will be holding its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference this year. Fred Behringer, a member of both Forth Gesellschaft and FIG UK, reports on the activities planned for this prestigious event.

The 20th annual conference of Forth Gesellschaft is being held on Friday April 16<sup>th</sup> to Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> at Hotel Schuetzenhof in Burgstaaken on the island of Fehmarn. This is going to be a jubilee meeting with many surprise activities. The conference languages are Forth and German. However, there will hardly be any member of Forth Gesellschaft unable to follow discussions and conversations in English. FIG UK members are welcome. Ask for price reduction if required. Apply to Dr. Ulrich Hoffmann, the conference organiser, for further information or visit Forth Gesellschaft at www.forth-ev.de .

Burgstaaken is the fishery harbour of Burg which in turn is the capital of Fehmarn. Fehmarn is the one and only Baltic Sea island of Slesvic-Holstein, the most northern federal state in Germany. Places not far away are Kiel and Luebeck. There are train and car connections via the Fehmarn-Sund bridge.

### Forthcoming in Issue 125

### Simple State Machines by Jenny Brien

In this article, Jenny explains how state machines can be used to parse number input intelligently, this being an example of a process that is easy to specify but hard to program procedurally.

### Win32Forth Regions by Dave Pochin

Regions are one of the categories of Microsoft Windows ® API functions. Dave Pochin describes his experiments with Regions in Win32Forth and goes on to develop a demonstration program for manipulating Regions.



# Nominations for the FIG UK Awards - 2003

The FIG UK Awards of 2002 were won by Ed Hersom and Howerd Oakford. These awards are given to encourage effort and recognise achievement.

Please take the time to look back over the past year and send in your personal nominations for 2003.

# Free membership

To nominate your candidate, send in a note of who, in your opinion, most deserves an award and why. The recipient of each award will receive a place in the FIG UK web-site's Hall Of Fame, a mention in Forthwrite and *a year's free membership*.

### **Achievement**

The Achievement Award is given to the member who has made the best contribution towards Forth during 2003. The contribution may be a presented paper, a library of code or an idea which inspires others. Whatever form it takes, the contribution must support the goals of FIG UK.

### **Forthwrite**

The Forthwrite Award is given to the member who has made the best contribution to Forthwrite magazine during 2003. The contribution may be judged on quality of writing, tutorial potential, entertainment value or other criteria which the Forthwrite Team deem appropriate.

The awards are judged by the officers of FIG UK. All who are members on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2003 are eligible (except the judges). Send in your nominations to the Editor or other committee member.

### Across the Big Teich

### **Henry Vinerts**

This material was prepared for Vierte Dimension by Henry Vinerts, and printed by kind permission of Forth Gesellschaft (German FIG).

### Greetings from California!

As you read this, the Silicon Valley Forth Interest Group will probably no longer be listed on the Web as the Silicon Valley Chapter of the FIG. In the spirit of Forth, the word "chapter" will be factored out and SVFIG will suffice to describe this endangered-species preserve in California. George Perry, the president of FIG, sees no need to dispute the autonomy of SVFIG, the last surviving branch of an organization which just prior to Y2K still sported over a thousand members.

So, I invite you to visit <a href="http://www.forth.org">http://www.forth.org</a> and take a look further into SVFIG news and activities. Since our webmaster, David Jaffe, diligently posts notes of past monthly meetings, as well as announcements about future ones, and provides links to websites of our speakers, I do not wish to go into great detail about the technical presentations in the meetings (also partly because many times they are "over my head" and partly because often they may be too specific to attract the attention of the average reader). The purpose of my messages -- as I have said before -- is to send them to you whenever I have had the opportunity to witness a live show, with real forthers as the actors. Of course, if I think that I should share with you any personal observations of historical, hysterical, or philosophical value that your editor might deem printable, I'll probably add them to the message.

### Silicon Valley FIG Meeting – December 2003

As we might have expected, after the yearly Forth Day and just before the holidays, the attendance at the December 13th meeting was on the skimpy side, peaking around 18 at lunch time. Dr. Tim Duncan, director of our host's (Cogswell College) department of Digital Audio Technology, continued with his lectures and demonstrations of MIDI implementation, filling the morning session. Due to Tim's familiarity with Forth, it is included in the college course catalog between C and Lisp as one of the recommended core programming languages for the bachelor's degree in his department.

After lunch, Dr. Ting's talk about keyboards, Chinese characters, etc, kept the group seated for about an hour, following which they happily fell out (It's an Army expression:

to "fall out" from being at attention.) to a big break of gossip, chit-chat, and watching Kevin Appert steer a browser all over the Web with a projector-equipped laptop.

### Silicon Valley FIG Meeting – January 2004

The January 24, 2004, SVFIG meeting was a real "winner." More people were there already in the morning than we had on Forth day in November. Our organizers had done a super job, even advertised the celebrity appearance in the San Jose Mercury News. Who was the celebrity? Perhaps I should first ask how many readers still remember Rafael Deliano's article in the 1/1996 volume of Vierte Dimension. And, incidentally, how many have heard of the Canon Cat?

Well, Dwight Elvey brought a Canon Cat, but Jef Raskin came himself, to talk to us about his "THE" project--The Humane Environment. There isn't enough room in my email box to describe the man and all his accomplishments. Even Rafael's three pages in the VD would have to be supplemented. Let me just say that Dr. Raskin may be best known as the creator of the Apple Macintosh project of 20 years ago and more recently as the author of "The Humane Interface" (Addison Wesley, 2000), which has already been translated into seven languages. Although Raskin admits partial responsibility for the "inhuman" GUIs that computer users are expected to live with today, his self-directed mission is to improve the human-computer interface for future generations by replacing inefficient designs and removing bad habits. He started with Forth on the Canon Cat and he intends to return to Forth in his THE project.

In the afternoon, Randy Thelen, whom we met on Forth Day, returned with his home-made TTL-based Forth computer MIPPY and drew compliments from the old-timers on his design and presentation. Dr. Ting finished the day with a number of topics related to his recent work in Taiwan and showed us his latest book "Programming Embedded Systems in Forth," which is published by O'Reilly branch in Taipei and is done in Chinese, except for various scatterings of Forth code throughout most of the 365 pages. The primary purpose of the book is to teach Chinese people how to design a CPU. An English version may come to be only if O'Reilly's main office decides to produce it.

In closing I would like to thank Dr. Ulrich Hoffmann for a kind invitation to the 20FG04 Forth Tagung on the Fehmarn Island. The last time I was in that neighborhood, was in Flensburg, as the war ended in 1945. Sorry, folks, I won't be able to attend, but I do wish a good time to everyone who will be there.

Henry



### Vierte Dimension 3/2003

#### Joe Anderson

Joe provides a look at the latest issue of the German FIG magazine.

Editorial.

Friederich Prinz

Friederich Prinz regrets that this time Vierte Dimension has turned out so meagre. The membership has again risen slightly and the relationship to Forth-adherents in other countries is as good as never before. All the same, nobody can be found who wants to write articles for Vierte Dimension.

Readers' Letters. 5

Two letters to the editor: VD is good, the content varied (Behringer) - The Forth-Gesellschaft's stand at the Linux conference (Paysan).

HolonForth.

Wolf Wejgaard [www@tiredofspam.com]

Writing programmes is relatively easy. Incorporating changes is also not much harder, at least in Forth. But keeping the overall view while making changes is a damned difficult job.

### Definition of Terms: Compiler/Interpreter.

Ewald Pfau [ehp@ear.co.at]

Reactions to a letter of the author's in comp.lang.forth.de and answers to it. One person writes: "Interpreting" is enough, "compiling" is modern techno-babble. Answer: some software firms practice deliberate concealment of information. Since the open-source movement the clear division has become a bit shaky. Is an interpreter that can change the compiler on the fly (Forth) still an "interpreter"?

Reviews.

Fred Behringer Fred reviews Vijgeblaadje Issues 37 and 38.

Advertisements. 13

Advertisements for the FIG-UK and the Dutch Forth-Users Group.

#### Signs of life from the USA.

**Henry Vinerts** 

[Volvovid@aol.com]

Henry has so far written over 50 reports about the meetings of the SVFIG for Vierte Dimension. He's wondering if readers are at all interested and asks for feedback. He is toying with the idea of giving up writing the reports.

7

13

### Updating the VD title-list.

14

Fred Behringer
[direktorium@forth-ev.de]

Fred's list of all articles that have ever appeared in Vierte Dimension was published in Issues 2/2002 to 4/2002. It is arranged according to subject-groups and within these by Issue number (date of appearance), and was modelled on Jenny Brien's Forthwrite list. The update presented herewith contains Issues 2/2002 to 2/2003 inclusive.

The LINUX Event.

Carsten Strotmann

The Forth-Gesellschaft was represented by a stand at this year's Linux conference in Karlsruhe. Forth and Linux have many things in common, and there are enough Forth systems that run under Linux. The Forth stand was organized by Carsten Strotmann. Also in the party at the stand (for four days) were Bernd Paysan, Ewald Rieger, Thomas Prinz and Holger Petersen.

Presentations were made of the Triceps robot of Ewald and the b16 processor of Bernd.

pOOP in Forth.

Manfred Mahlow

pOOP stands for "Prelude-based object-oriented programming". The author presented the Prelude concept for the first time in 1997 at the AGM of the Forth-Gesellschaft and has worked on its further development since then. Object and Methods are combined in a simple manner through implicit context switching. A few new Forth words are enough to provide every existing Forth system with Prelude. Characteristics: encapsulation of objects and methods, single inheritance, operator overloading, early binding, late binding possible. The author provides three pages of examples.

### MicroCore Philosophy.

21

Klaus Schleisiek

Talk by the author at the 2003 AGM of the Forth-Gesellschaft. MicroCore is a processor structure that uses Forth as assembler. Among other things, borrowings are made from transputer architecture, by which longer literals are produced through stringing "nibbles" together

Living Forth.

Henry Vinerts & Friederich Prinz

Pessimistic view by Henry, and upbeat reply by Friederich, concerning Henry's reports on the SVFIG meetings.

### What is Peg Solitaire?

23

**Ewald Rieger** 

The author discusses the background to the game: historical, winning strategies, evaluation of moves, the mathematics of solution, computerising, time-estimating, heuristics.

**Ewald Rieger** 

The author has introduced his robot "Triceps" in Vierte Dimension 2/2003. Triceps can master pick-and-place tasks and is programmed in Forth. In the present article the programme and the robot are developed to play move by move in a game of solitaire; iron balls lie in little recesses on an aluminium board and are moved from point to point by means of a programme-driven electromagnet hanging from a suspension device over the board.

Reviews. 30

Fred Behringer Fred reviews Vijgeblaadje Issue 39.

### **Errata**

#### Vierte Dimension

In Forthwrite Issue 123 Joe Anderson's review of Vierte Dimension was incorrectly entitled: "Vierte Dimension 4/2002". It should of course have been "Vierte Dimension 2/2003".

The Editor apologises to the readers, Joe and the editors of Vierte Dimension for this error.

The electronic copy of Forthwrite which will be posted on the web in due course will show the correct date.

### AGM Report

The Editor also offers his apologies to Jeremy Fowell and Chris Jakeman for publishing the wrong text for the 2003 FIG UK AGM report. Due to an oversight, Chris's minutes were published and not Jeremy's final version of the report. As one would expect of a well-oiled machine like the FIG UK committee, the material content of the two is entirely consistent so it is felt that there is no need to retract Chris's version and print Jeremy's one instead.

- Editor.

# **Dutch Forth Users Group**

Reading Dutch is easier than you might think. And as Forth is an international language, reading Dutch code is easier still for a Forth enthusiast. Are you interested? Why not subscribe to

## HCC-Forth-gebruikersgroep

For only 10 euros a year (about £6.70), we will send you 5 to 6 copies of our "fig-leaf" broadsheet 'Het Vijgeblaadje'. This includes all our activities, progress reports on software and hardware projects and news of our in-house products.

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Boulevard Heuvelink 126
6828 KW Arnhem, The Netherlands
E-Mail: w.ouwerkerk@kader.hobby.nl

The easiest way to pay is to post a 10 euro note direct to Willem.

### Forthwrite Index

Jenny Brien maintains a set of three indexes to Forthwrite on the FIG UK web site and updates them with each new issue. These indexes are sorted by date, by author and by subject going back to 1990. The subject index is published in the magazine annually (below), with this year's new entries highlighted.

Back issues of Forthwrite are available from the Library, so this is a good way to catch up on topics of special interest. Copies of Forthwrite may be borrowed, just like the library books, for the cost of the postage, but many people prefer to receive scanned articles by email, or photocopies. Contact the Librarian for details.

If you spot a topic that has not been adequately covered, please drop a line to the Editor.

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editorial	Hainsworth, Chris	59	Apr '91	Forthtalk and EuroFORML report
editorial	Jakeman, Chris	67	Aug '92	Soapbox - "Do it yourself"
editorial	Payne, John	69	Dec '92	Fat, thin or inflatable?
editorial	Wilson, R.J.	72	Jun '93	Seeing trees in the wood
editorial	Rush, Peter	82	Feb '95	Honeywell Forth Bulletin Board
editorial	Jakeman, Chris	88	May '96	From the 'net - perceptions
editorial	Hersom, Ed	89	Jul '96	Why Forth?
editorial	Jakeman, Chris	90	Nov '96	Sell-by-date
editorial	Jakeman, Chris	91	Feb '97	FIG UK joins the World Wide Web
editorial	Jakeman, Chris	91	Feb '97	Welcome Disk
editorial	Brien, Jack	92	Aug '97	FIG UK Web Site
encryption	Greenwood, Mike	95	Mar '98	File Encryption
exceptions	Charlton, Gordon	59	Apr '91	CATCH and THROW (code)
exceptions	Jakeman, Chris	74	Oct '93	Portable CATCH and QUIT (code)
exceptions	Jakeman, Chris	74	Oct '93	Using CATCH and QUIT (code)
F11-UK	Fowell, Jeremy	122	Sep '03	What's All This Compiler Stuff, Anyhow?
F11-UK	Fowell, Jeremy	122	Sep '03	Connecting an LCD to the F11-UK Single Board Computer
FANSI project	Bennett, Paul	54	Jun '90	Time for a new FIG Forth (comment)
FANSI project	Charlton, Gordon	56	Oct '90	High-level /MOD using recursion (code)
FANSI project	Charlton, Gordon	56	Oct '90	High-level multiply (code)
FANSI project	Flynn, Chris	56	Oct '90	Discussion on REQUIRES
FANSI project	Hainsworth, Chris	56	Oct '90	FANSI that (proposal)
FANSI project	Bennett, Paul	57	Dec '90	FANSI environs (proposal)
FANSI project	Flynn, Chris	57	Dec '90	Response to design proposals (comment)
FANSI project	Payne, John	57	Dec '90	Response to design proposals (comment)
FANSI project	Charlton, Gordon	60	Jun '91	FANSI definitions (code)
FANSI project	Charlton, Gordon	61	Jun '91	FANSI bloomers (code)
FANSI project	Payne, John	61	Jun '91	Notes on FANSI (code)
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FANSI project	Bennett, Paul	62	Oct '91	Report on FANSI
FANSI project	Charlton, Gordon	63	Dec '91	FANSI vocabularies (proposal)
FANSI project	Brien, Jack	64	Feb '92	FANSI (comment)
FANSI project	Payne, John	64	Feb '92	FANSI (comment)
FANSI project	Preston, Philip	64	Feb '92	FANSI (comment)
FANSI project	Payne, John	69	Dec '92	FANSI QUIT
file tools	Brien, Jack	58	Feb '91	Loading dependant source (code)
file tools	Jakeman, Chris	70	Feb '93	File access, part 1 (code)
file tools	Jakeman, Chris	71	Apr '93	File access, part 2 (code)
file tools	Jakeman, Chris	72	Jun '93	File access, part 3 (code)
file tools	Jakeman, Chris	73	Aug '93	File access, part 4 (code)
file tools	Brien, Jack	86	Oct '95	Hierarchical screen filing
file tools	Wong, Leo	98	Oct '98	ANS File Words for Pygmy Forth
file tools	Behringer, Fred	100	Jan '99	ANS File Words for Turbo Forth - 1
fractions	Charlton, Gordon	52	Feb '90	Vulgar words (code)
fractions	Wilson, R.J.	53	Apr '90	Rational numbers (code)
fractions	Wilson, R.J.	54	Jun '90	Transcendental rationale (code)
fractions	Charlton, Gordon	56	Oct '90	Rational approximation (comment)
futures	Jakeman, Chris	79	Aug '94	Telescript (comment)
futures	Jakeman, Chris	80	Oct '94	Some future directions (editorial)
futures	Jakeman, Chris	90	Nov '96	Forth and Java (comp.lang.forth)
futures	Pelc, Stephen	104	Nov '99	FIG UK - The Next 20 Years
futures	Jakeman, Chris	115	Jan '02	The Semantic Web
graphics	Filbey, Gil	53	Apr '90	Plotting spirals (tutorial)
graphics	Charlton, Gordon	66	Jun '92	Turtle graphics
graphics	Payne, John	67	Aug '92	Flood fill
graphics	Charlton, Gordon	73	Aug '93	Drawing a line
graphics	Charlton, Gordon	74	Oct '93	Not drawing a line
graphics	Payne, John	74	Oct '93	How Bresenham's line drawing alg. works
graphics	Pochin, Dave	109	Nov '00	"BLT is not a Sandwich"
graphics	Pochin, Dave	119	Jan '03	Rectangles in Win32Forth
hardware	Koopman, Philip	56	Oct '90	RTX 4000 (publicity)
hardware	Fowell, Jeremy	67	Aug '92	P20 chip, part 1/2
hardware	Fowell, Jeremy	68	Oct '92	P20 chip, part 2/2
hardware	Bennett, Paul	89	Jul '96	Chuck's chips
hardware	Fowell, Jeremy	100	Jan '99	FIG UK Hardware Project
hardware	Fowell, Jeremy	101	Apr '99	FIG UK Hardware Project - Progress
hardware	Heuvel, Leendert	101	Apr '99	The 'Egel Coursebook
hardware	Fowell, Jeremy	103	Aug '99	FIG UK Hardware Project - Progress
hardware	Fowell, Jeremy	104	Nov '99	FIG UK Hardware Project - Progress
hardware	Fowell, Jeremy	105	Jan '00	F11-UK Hardware Project - Progress
hardware	Fowell, Jeremy	106	Apr '00	F11-UK Hardware Project - Progress
hardware	Fowell, Jeremy	108	Aug '00	F11-UK Hardware Project - Launch
hardware	Jakeman, Chris	110	Jan '01	F11-UK Hardware Project - Progress
hardware	Jakeman, Chris	111	Apr '01	F11-UK Hardware Project - Progress
history	Rather, Elizabeth	83	Apr '95	The evolution of Forth
history	Rather, Elizabeth	87	Dec '95	The Forth approach to operating systems
history	Hainsworth, Chris	100	Jan '99	Forthwrite Issue No. 1 revisited
history	Powell, Bill	100	Jan '99	The Birth of FIG UK
history	Behringer, Fred	104	Nov '99	Swap Dragon

history	Brien, Jack	104	Nov '99	FIG UK - The Last 20 Years
history	Jakeman, Chris	105	Jan '00	Did you Know? - EasyWriter
history	Jakeman, Chris	106	Apr '00	From the 'Net, Forth for Novell
history	Crook, Neal	107	Jun '00	The Canon Cat
history	Jakeman, Chris	107	Jun '00	Did you Know? - Forth OS
history	Jakeman, Chris	108	Aug '00	Computer Conservation
history	Jakeman, Chris	108	Aug '00	Did you Know? - Forth v C
history	Jakeman, Chris	109	Nov '00	Did you Know? - Open Firmware
history	Jakeman, Chris	113	Sep '01	Did you Know? - smart cards
history	Jakeman, Chris	114	Nov '01	Did you Know? - large Forth projects
history	Jakeman, Chris	116	Apr '02	Did you Know? - Forth Help Nobel Prize Winners
history	Moore, Charles	118	Sep '02	Forth - The Early Years
humour	Payne, John	57	Dec '90	A program that works the French way
humour	Smith, Graham	84	Jun '95	Book titles
humour	Jakeman, Chris	88	May '96	From the 'net - a drinking song
humour	Allwright, Ray	96	May '98	A Story of Cowboys
humour	Gassanenko,	115	Jan '02	From the 'Net - the non-English view
_	Michael			
humour	anon	122	Sep '03	What Languages Fix
humour	anon	123	Dec '03	What Languages Fix - Not!
interfacing	Robinson, Dave	61	Jun '91	Mouse handling (F83 code)
interfacing	Bennett, Paul	96	May '98	Reading the World - 1
interfacing	Bennett, Paul	97	Jul '98	Reading the World - 2
interfacing	Bennett, Paul	98	Oct '98	Writing the World - 1
interfacing	Bennett, Paul	100	Jan '99	Writing the World - 2
internals	Hainsworth, Chris	52	Feb '90	Kiss and run (exploring F-PC)
internals	Charlton, Gordon	58	Feb '91	A replacement for DO LOOP (code)
internals	Flynn, Chris	60	Jun '91	Forth engine on 68000
internals	Bennett, Paul	68	Oct '92	Top-down development of a Forth system
internals	Bennett, Paul	71	Apr '93	QUIT, the story continues
internals	Preston, Philip	75	Dec '93	RatForth - ANS on F83
internals	Preston, Philip	76	Feb '94	Ratforth revised etc.
internals	Preston, Philip	78	Jun '94	Redefining colon
internals	Preston, Philip	80	Oct '94	Simulating EVALUATE
internals	Preston, Philip	86	Oct '95	Variables, values & locals
internals	Wenham, Alan	87	Dec '95	Meandering Forth
internals	Brien, Jack	92	Aug '97	Building a new inner interpreter
internals	Allwright, Ray	95	Mar '98	From the 'Net - Minimal word sets
internals	Allwright, Ray	101	Apr '99	From the 'Net - Turnkey Apps and Docs
internals	Tasgal, John	106	Apr '00	An Introduction to Machine Forth
internals	Brien, Jenny	113	Sep '01	Treating Data as Source
interpreting	Jakeman, Chris	86	Oct '95	From the 'net - text interpreter
interpreting	Brien, Jack	90	Nov '96	Implementing an outer interpreter
interview	Moore, Charles	102	Jun '99	1xForth
interview	Lawless, Jim	114	Nov '01	An interview with Tom Zimmer
interview	Morrison, George	114	Nov '01	Charles Moore interview on Slashdot
interview	Culver, Barry	119	Jan '03	An interview with Barry Culver
library	Hainsworth, Sylvia	59	Apr '91	FIG UK library bulletin
library	Jakeman, Chris	90	Nov '96	Library assets
library	Hainsworth, Sylvia	96	May '98	Purchases and current publications
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logic	Behringer, Fred	112	Jul '01	Arithmetized Logic in Forth
MCFAs	Brien, Jack	55	Aug '90	Comment
objects	Jakeman, Chris	81	Dec '94	Objects and so forth
objects	Jakeman, Chris	99	Nov '98	OOF - A Minimal Approach
objects	Prinz, Friederich	100	Jan '99	Counting Fruits the Classic Way
objects	Jakeman, Chris	115	Jan '02	A Safer Mini-OOF
performance	Jakeman, Chris	94	Jan '98	From the 'Net - Speed Demons
permutations	Charlton, Gordon	52	Feb '90	Permutations, a new algorithm (code)
permutations	Hersom, Ed	62	Oct '91	Permutations (code)
permutations	Hersom, Ed	65	Apr '92	Permutations/combinations
permutations	Baden, Wil	109	Nov '00	Permutation by Transposition Sequence ACM 115A
permutations	Jakeman, Chris	109	Nov '00	Simple Forth Permutations
permutations	Behringer, Fred	111	Apr '01	Generating Combinations
presentation	Brien, Jack	52	Feb '90	Locals and more (discussion)
presentation	Matthews, Keith	57	Dec '90	Stack diagrams (explored)
presentation	Brien, Jack	58	Feb '91	GIST for indexing source (code)
presentation	Bennett, Paul	60	Jun '91	Manual documentation (code)
presentation	Charlton, Gordon	75	Dec '93	StackFlow
presentation	Brien, Jack	80	Oct '94	Readable Forth
presentation	Tanner, P.H.	81	Dec '94	Post indentation
presentation	Charlton, Gordon	91	Feb '97	From the 'Net - StackFlow
probability	Filbey, Gil	57	Dec '90	Probability of common birthdays
probability	Filbey, Gil	57	Dec '90	Random thoughts on probability
probability	Payne, John	57	Dec '90	Probability of common birthdays
programming	Brien, Jenny &	119	Jan '03	Using Wordlists for Many[
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	Jakeman, Chris			
programming	Jakeman, Chris Jakeman, Chris	119	Jan '03	From the 'Net
programming programming	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	119 120	Jan '03 Mar '03	From the 'Net Sorting a List
	Jakeman, Chris			
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review	Wenham, Alan	105	Jan '00	Vierte Dimension 4/99
review	de Ceballos, Federico	106	Apr '00	21st FORML Conference
review	Wenham, Alan	106	Apr '00	Vierte Dimension 1/00
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review	Jakeman, Chris	109	Nov '00	Forth in the UK
review	Wenham, Alan	109	Nov '00	Vierte Dimension 3/00
review	Ives, Robert	110	Jan '01	"Forth Application Techniques"
review	Oakford, Howerd	110	Jan '01	euroFORTH 2000 Conference report
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review	Abrahams, David	112	Jul '01	"Extreme Mindstorms" book
review	Bennett, Paul	112	Jul '01	3 Free Forths and an OS too!
review	Jakeman, Chris	112	Jul '01	Gesellschaft 2001 Conference report
review	Wenham, Alan	113	Sep '01	Vierte Dimension 2/01
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review	Oakford, Howerd	116	Apr '02	euroFORTH 2001 Conference report
review	Vinerts, Henry	116	Apr '02	Across the Big Teich
review	Wenham, Alan	116	Apr '02	Vierte Dimension 4/01
review	Behringer, Fred	117	Jul '02	German FIG Annual Conference
review	Fennema, Boris	117	Jul '02	"Write Your Own Programming Language Using C++"
review	Fennema, Boris	117	Jul '02	"The Practice of Programming"
review	Moore, Charles	117	Jul '02	An Interview with Chuck Moore
review	Vinerts, Henry	117	Jul '02	Across the Big Teich
review	Wenham, Alan	117	Jul '02	Vierte Dimension 1/02
review	Rodriguez, Brad	118	Sep '02	Choosing Forth
review	Vinerts, Henry	118	Sep '02	Across the Big Teich
review	Anderson, Joe	119	Jan '03	Vierte Dimension 3/2002
review	Jakeman, Chris	119	Jan '03	AGM Report
review	Stoddart, Bill	119	Jan '03	euroFORTH Conference Report
review	Vinerts, Henry	119	Jan '03	Across the Big Teich
review	anon	120	Mar '03	nnCron
review	anon	120	Mar '03	F11-UK FIG Hardware Project
review	Jakeman, Chris & Powell, Bill	120	Mar '03	Forth and the Neuron Chip
review	Vinerts, Henry	120	Mar '03	Across the Big Teich
review	Anderson, Joe	121	Jul '03	Vierte Dimension 4/2002
review	anon	121	Jul '03	Forth Archive
review	Jakeman, Chris	121	Jul '03	From the 'Net
review	Vinerts, Henry	121	Jul '03	Across the Big Teich
review	Anderson, Joe	122	Sep '03	Vierte Dimension 1/2003
review	Vinerts, Henry	122	Sep '03	Across the Big Teich
review	Anderson, Joe	123	Dec '03	Vierte Dimension
review	Jakeman, Chris	123	Dec '03	AGM Report
	Janoman, Jilli		200 00	

review	Oakford, Howerd	123	Dec '03	EuroForth 2003 - The Report
review	Vinerts, Henry	123	Dec '03	Across the Big Teich
roots	Wilson, R.J.	55	Aug '90	Root of rational numbers (code)
roots	Charlton, Gordon	56	Oct '90	Square root (code)
roots	Trapp, John	58	Feb '91	Square-roots for double/floating point
roots	Brien, Jack	93	Nov '97	From the Net - More on square roots
roots	Behringer, Fred	95	Mar '98	Square roots once more
roots	Behringer, Fred	96	May '98	Cubic roots without division
roots	Jakeman, Chris	106	Apr '00	Cube Roots Again
roots	Jakeman, Chris	106	Apr '00	From the 'Net - Cube Roots
roots	Jakeman, Chris	107	Jun '00	From the 'Net, Cube Roots
searching	Charlton, Gordon	57	Dec '90	A faster string search (code)
searching	Charlton, Gordon	62	Oct '91	A binary search (code)
searching	Hersom, Ed	63	Dec '91	Recursive BINSEARCH (code)
searching	Charlton, Gordon	70	Feb '93	Shift-AND string search (code)
searching	Charlton, Gordon	76	Feb '94	Best string search (code)
searching	Jakeman, Chris	84	Jun '95	Linear search
sets	Charlton, Gordon	54	Jun '90	Set manipulation (code)
sorting	Charlton, Gordon	55	Aug '90	Radix, an extravagant sort (code)
sorting	Charlton, Gordon	56	Oct '90	Sorting strings with qsort (code)
sorting	Charlton, Gordon	62	Oct '91	Heapsort (code)
stacks	Preston, Philip	69	Dec '92	Stocking fillers - stacks & write-only
stacks	Charlton, Gordon	77	Apr '94	Stacrobaticus exotica
stacks	Filbey, Gil	79	Aug '94	Stacks (tutorial)
stacks	Jakeman, Chris	85	Aug '95	Stack manipulation
stacks	Joseph, Neville	86	Oct '95	Stack manipulation
stacks	Barr, Stan	87	Dec '95	A third stack
stacks	Hersom, Ed	93	Nov '97	Multi-precision Stack Operators
standards	Jakeman, Chris	60	Jun '91	Portable code (code)
state machines	Charlton, Gordon	56	Oct '90	Variables for state machines (code)
state machines	Dunbar, Graeme	97	Jul '98	Finite State Machines 1/3
state machines	Dunbar, Graeme	98	Oct '98	Finite State Machines 2/3
state machines	Dunbar, Graeme	103	Aug '99	Finite State Machines 3a
strings	Leibniz, David	58	Feb '91	String stack routine (code)
strings	MacLean, Ruaridh	58	Feb '91	High level DIGIT (tutorial)
strings	Charlton, Gordon	59	Apr '91	A string pattern matcher (code)
strings	Payne, John	65	Apr '92	Text processing
strings	Preston, Philip	68	Oct '92	TACK and BLOCKL
strings	Charlton, Gordon	71	Apr '93	ANSI and portability - STRLIT (code)
strings	Brien, Jack	72	Jun '93	Comment on Blockl & Tack
strings	Charlton, Gordon	72	Jun '93	Similarity
strings	Jakeman, Chris	87	Dec '95	From the 'net - please
strings	Brien, Jack	89	Jul '96	String handling
strings	Jakeman, Chris	91	Feb '97	Pattern matching - 1/3 (tutorial)
strings	Jakeman, Chris	92	Aug '97	Pattern matching - 2/3 (FoSM with Forth)
strings	Jakeman, Chris	93	Nov '97	Pattern matching 3/3 (Rex)
strings	Borrell, Richard	95	Mar '98	Deferred Language Translation
strings	Oakford, Howerd	99	Nov '98	Multiple Language Programs Made Easy
structures	Brien, Jack	94	Jan '98	Building Forth Structures
systems	Green, Roedy	55	Aug '90	BBL Forth (review)

systems	Bennett, Paul	64	Feb '92	Pygmy Forth (review)
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systems	Hersom, Ed	70	Feb '93	Pocket Forth (review)
systems	Tanner, P.H.	72	Jun '93	URForth (review)
systems	Payne, John	82	Feb '95	A 32-bit Forth for Windows (review)
systems	Stephens, Chris	82	Feb '95	Forth for the Transputer (review)
systems	Behringer, Fred	92	Aug '97	Forth for the Transputer
systems	Worthington, Thom.	94	Jan '98	Aztec - A Forth For Windows '95
systems	Besemer, Hans	96	May '98	4th - The Alternative Compiler
systems	Jakeman, Chris	100	Jan '99	Web Forth Project
systems	Lancaster, Garry	101	Apr '99	Forth for the Z88
systems	Jakeman, Chris	102	Jun '99	Web Forth Project
systems	Ouwerkerk, Willem	103	Aug '99	ByteForth for MCS51 cpu's
systems	Tasgal, John	107	Jun '00	An Introduction to Color Forth
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systems	Zimmer, Tom	113	Sep '01	4-bit Forth
systems	Eckert, Brad	114	Nov '01	Tiny Open Firmware
systems	Myneni, Krishna	116	Apr '02	Special Features of kForth 1/2
systems	Myneni, Krishna	117	Jul '02	Special Features of kForth 2/2
tools	Jakeman, Chris	54	Jun '90	Patch programming aid (code)
tools	Jakeman, Chris	56	Oct '90	Run-time operators (code)
tools	Preston, Philip	63	Dec '91	ALIAS ALIAS (F83 code)
tools	Jakeman, Chris	69	Dec '92	Also and -Also (code)
tools	Charlton, Gordon	71	Apr '93	Wrong way round!
tools	Bennett, Paul	72	Jun '93	+MOD! (LOG?) and commenting words
tools	Brien, Jack	74	Oct '93	Utilities for F83 on Amstrad PCW
tools	Jakeman, Chris	75	Dec '93	Shell (code)
tools	Bennett, Paul	76	Feb '94	Spooling and browsing
tools	Jakeman, Chris	76	Feb '94	.Call and Assert (code)
tools	Jakeman, Chris	77	Apr '94	Check (code)
tools	Flynn, Chris	78	Jun '94	Conditional compilation
tools	Preston, Philip	79	Aug '94	More fun with EVALUATE
tools	Charlton, Gordon	81	Dec '94	16-bit cyclic redundancy checksums
tools	Franin, Julio	82	Feb '95	MC51 Forth debugging
tools	Smith, Graham	84	Jun '95	MARK
tools	Jakeman, Chris	85	Aug '95	Limit variables (code)
tools	Abrahams, David	86	Oct '95	General purpose utilities for F-PC
tools	Stott, Barrie	91	Feb '97	Stack checking (code)
tools	Jakeman, Chris	102	Jun '99	From the 'Net - Iterative Interpretation
tools	Wong, Leo	118	Sep '02	Iteration with Many:
tutorial	Charlton, Gordon	65	Apr '92	Two geese and a car
tutorial	Brown, Jack	66	Jun '92	An indefinite loop example
tutorial	Filbey, Gil	69	Dec '92	Escape codes and printing
tutorial	Filbey, Gil	70	Feb '93	A conjuring trick
tutorial	Hainsworth, Chris	70	Feb '93	Shallow end
tutorial	Filbey, Gil	71	Apr '93	Some old words revisited
tutorial	Filbey, Gil	74	Oct '93	Floating point
tutorial	Charlton, Gordon	75	Dec '93	Create does>
tutorial	Filbey, Gil	75	Dec '93	Postfix
tutorial	Filbey, Gil	76	Feb '94	Editorial & Tu
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tutorial	Filbey, Gil	81	Dec '94	Floating point
tutorial	Filbey, Gil	85	Aug '95	Immediacy
tutorial	Filbey, Gil	86	Oct '95	Editorial
tutorial	Telfer, Graham	97	Jul '98	Wondrous Numbers
tutorial	Jakeman, Chris	99	Nov '98	jeForth Project
tutorial	Pochin, Dave	100	Jan '99	Forth for the New Year
tutorial	Pochin, Dave	100	Jan '99	Guide to Getting Started
tutorial	Pochin, Dave	101	Apr '99	Getting Stuck Into Win32Forth
tutorial	Pochin, Dave	103	Aug '99	Figuring it out with Win32Forth
tutorial	Jakeman, Chris	104	Nov '99	Clock Challenge
tutorial	Jakeman, Chris	105	Jan '00	Clock Challenge - 2nd installment
tutorial	Pochin, Dave	105	Jan '00	"See Win32Forth scroll the Window"
tutorial	Brien, Jack	106	Apr '00	All you need to know about STATE, IMMEDIATE and POSTPONE
tutorial	Pochin, Dave	111	Apr '01	Six Easy Fonts
tutorial	Noble, Julian	113	Sep '01	A Call to Assembly 1/3
tutorial	Pochin, Dave	113	Sep '01	Win32Forth Fonts
tutorial	Noble, Julian	114	Nov '01	A Call to Assembly 2/3
tutorial	Noble, Julian	115	Jan '02	A Call to Assembly 3/3
tutorial	Pochin, Dave	115	Jan '02	The End of the Line
tutorial	Telfer, Graham	116	Apr '02	Seven Times Five Equals Eleven
vectoring	Charlton, Gordon	56	Oct '90	Resolving forward references (code)
vectoring	Jakeman, Chris	58	Feb '91	Deferred words (code)
vectoring	Preston, Philip	59	Apr '91	Forgettable vectors and smart compiling
vectoring	Bennett, Paul	68	Oct '92	Vectoring with DOER and MAKE
vectoring	Allwright, Ray	93	Nov '97	From the Net - Defer and Is

### What Languages Fix- Not!

The Editor's in tray is still decidedly empty on this topic...

Note that the original article in Issue 122 has been listed under "Humour" in the Forthwrite Index (see above), so nothing too deep or philosophical is expected by way of contributions from readers. A deep and philosophical treatise would be just as welcome, however!

Taking the evidence (or lack of it) in a Bayesian sense, one might be led to either of the following conclusions:

- (a) Forth fixes none of the problems exhibited by other languages, or,
- (b) Forth's superiority is so self-evident that no comment is necessary.

So let's see some input.

- Editor.



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