

DIGITAL SYSTEMS
FLOPPY DISK SYSTEM REFERENCE MATERIAL

List of Attachments

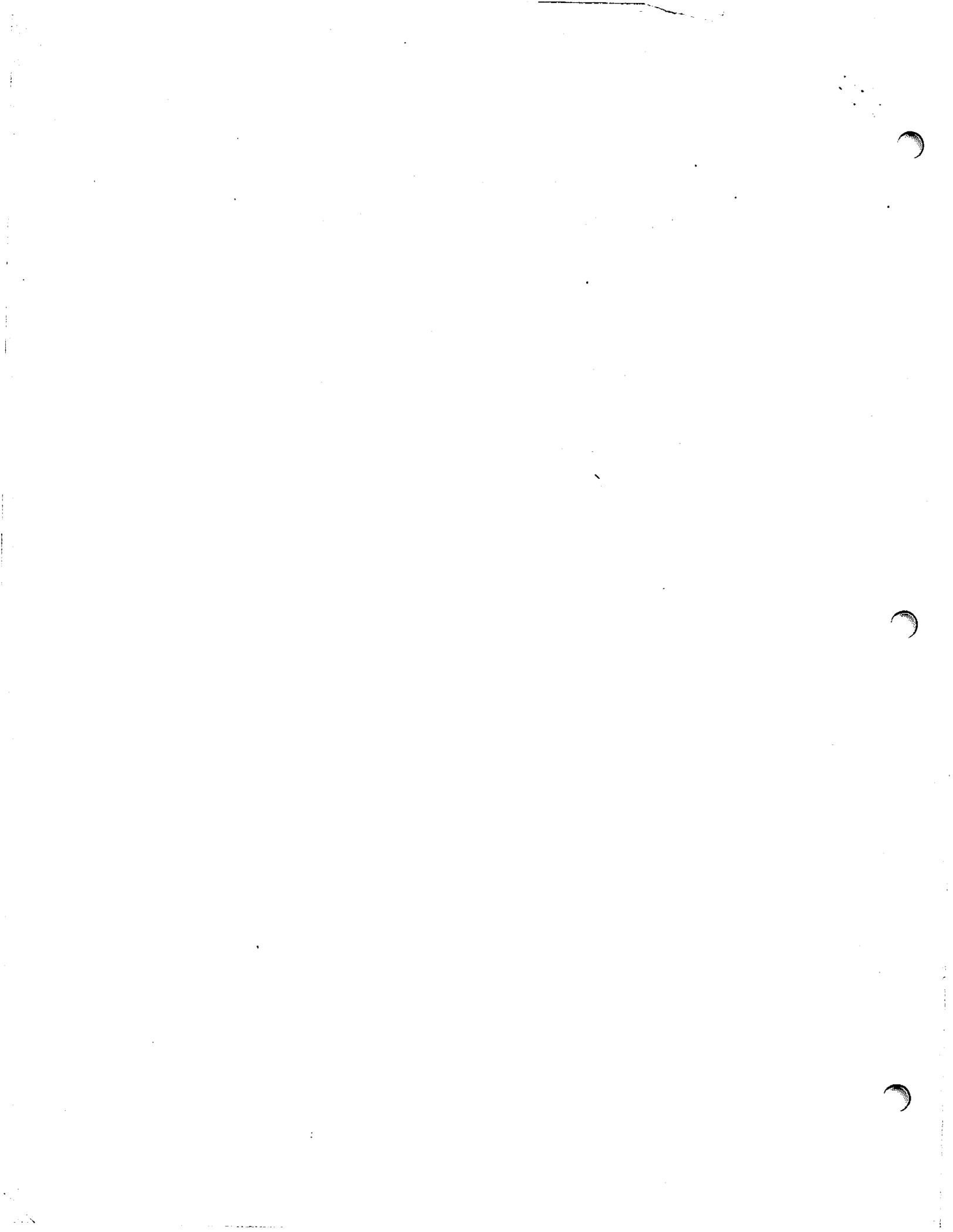
FDC-1 Interface Manual

Shugart Disk Drive Manual

ALTAIR-Compatible Bus Interface

8080 Software Information

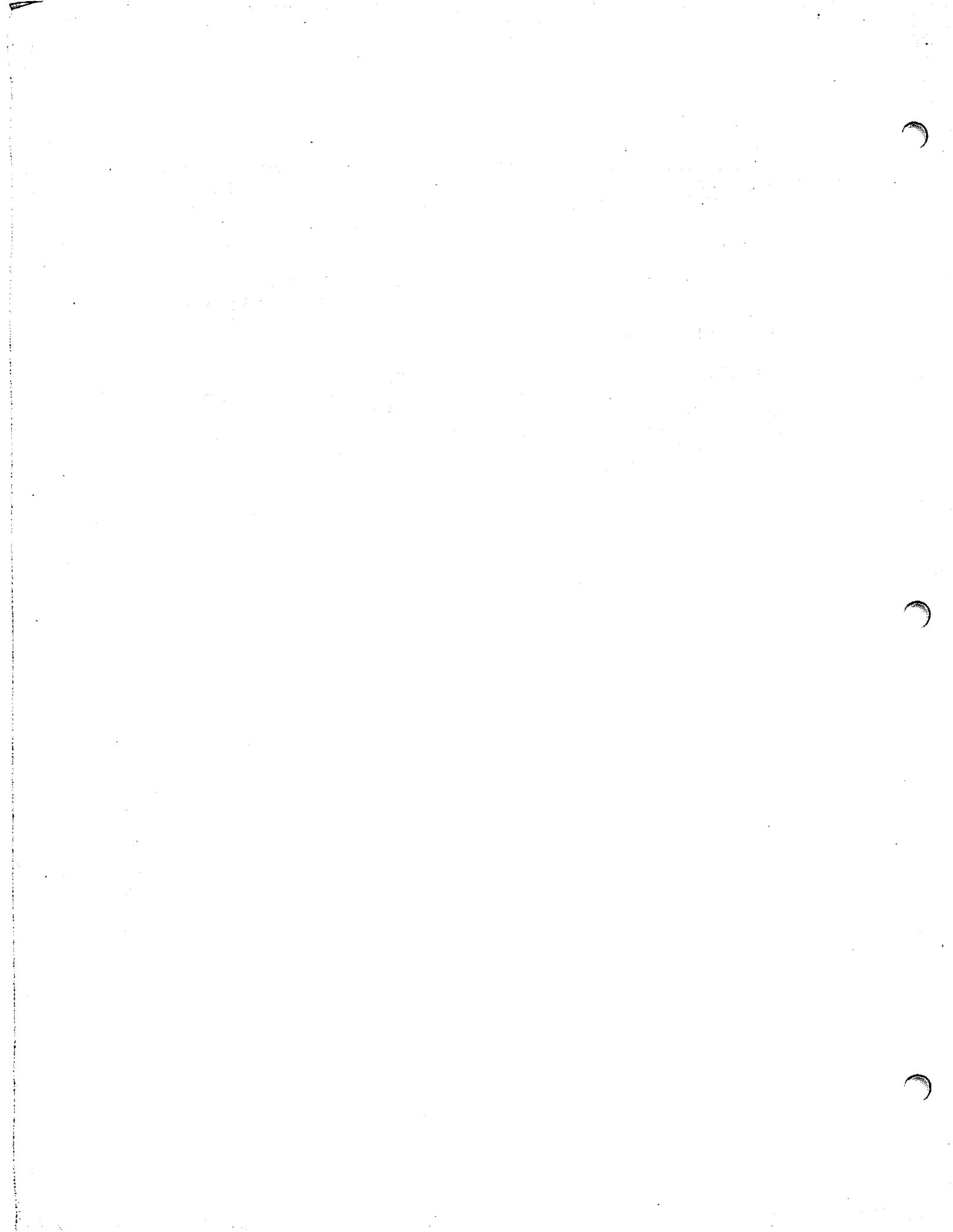
Warranty Information



DIGITAL SYSTEMS is currently marketing only the FDC-1 floppy disk controller board and Shugart disk drives. We are providing documentation on the interface we have used to interface the FDC-1 to an Altair compatible machine. We have used the resulting system to run CP/M, a sophisticated disk operating system.

While the bus interface to the FDC-1 is a relatively simple circuit, the total disk system is complex. Debugging a hand wired system may be beyond the capabilities of an inexperienced TTL designer.

DIGITAL SYSTEMS will produce a completely assembled and tested interface to the FDC-1 if there is sufficient demand. We estimate the cost of the board to be \$30 with availability October 1. Let us know if you would be interested in this board as we believe this would be the best way for most users to bring up a disk system.



DIGITAL SYSTEMS
MODEL FDC-1
FLOPPY DISK CONTROLLER
INTERFACE MANUAL

DIGITAL SYSTEMS
754 Carmel Ave
Livermore, California 94550

(415) 443-4078

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INTRODUCTION

This manual provides the information needed to utilize the DIGITAL SYSTEMS Model FDC-1 floppy disk controller within a data system. It is intended as a reference for technical personnel engaged in the specification, design, and implementation of a digital system with flexible disk drive storage devices. Both hardware and software requirements for integrating the FDC-1 with memories, processors, disk drives, and system wide controlling devices are described.

Details of the interior of the FDC-1 do not appear here; these are found in the FDC-1 Technical Description manual. Aspects of the controller detailed here include specification and timing for all exterior interface signals, physical layout, power requirements, and required command sequences generally supplied under program control from a host processor system to the disk controller.

A block diagram of the FDC appears in Figure 1.

The FDC-1 is a flexible disk drive controller for up to four selectable drives. The FDC-1 uses a high speed microprocessor based design providing reliable and flexible functions implemented in read-only memory logic. Features of the FDC-1 include drive write protect, automatic CRC generation and check, full IBM 3740 compatible soft sector formatting, automatic track seek verify, and head retraction after eight idle disk rotations to assure long diskette life. An automatic bootstrap load from Track 0, Sector 1 can be done at system initialization without system processor intervention.

The FDC-1 is fully TTL implemented and compatible. An adaptable, simple interface to mini and microprocessor systems is provided with 8 bit parallel input and output busses for control information. A DMA interface moves data directly in or out of memory once a transfer is initiated.

Packaging is on a single 10" x 12" PC board with system interface via standard edge connectors and flat cable to the flexible disk drives.

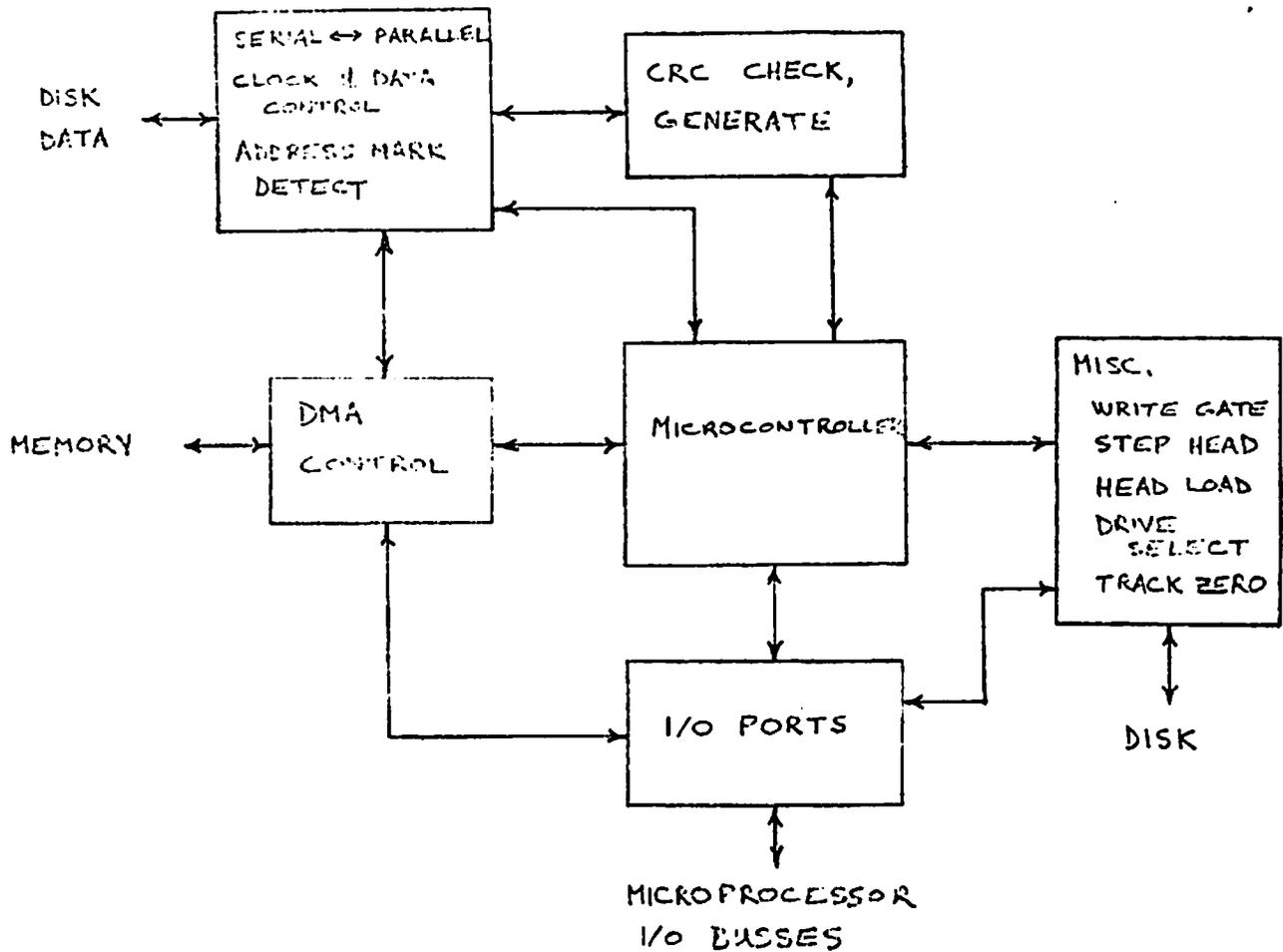


Figure 1. FDC-1 Block Diagram.

HARDWARE INTERFACE TO THE FDC-1

A diagram of the FDC external signals appears in Figure 2. The signals can be divided into three distinct interfaces; the device, direct memory interface (DMA), and disk interfaces. The device interface implements command and status information between host system control hardware (i.e. processor and processor support logic) and the FDC. The DMA interface exchanges data with up to 64 Kbytes of random access memory. The disk interface connects the FDC to a chain of flexible disk drives handling IBM format compatible diskette media. Initialization and power supply lines complete the FDC requirements.

A detailed description for each interface follows. Reference is made to the appendices containing backplane signal pinouts (J1 and J2), connector pinouts for the disk interface (J3), and the following table summarizing the mnemonic name, active state, and description for all interface signals.

SYSTEM BUSES

Following is a summary of the busses and controls for the FDC, their names, active state, and description. All busses except MAD are 8 bits wide, bit 7 is the most significant bit, bit 0 the LSB. Index x varies from 0 to 7 unless otherwise noted.

Name	Active	Description
DINx	hi	device input bus data to host via backplane
-DOUTx	low	device output bus data from host via backplane
MDINx	hi	memory data in data to memory via backplane
MDOUTx	hi	memory data out data from memory via backplane
-DEVx	low	device address to devices
MADx	hi	x ranges from 0 to 15 16 bit memory address bus to memory via backplane
REQ	hi	single line raised by FDC to request a memory cycle
ACK	hi	single line raised by host memory system to grant a memory cycle
-WRITE	low	lowered after cycle is granted if FDC wishes to write to memory
-IN	low	input device strobe
OUT	high	output device strobe
-IRESET	low	system restart signal
-IOF	low	I/O finished by FDC
-BOOTSTRAP	low	forces FDC to execute bootstrap and return -IOF
DZPROT	high	inhibit writing on disk 0

All bus levels are TTL standard, with low level signals below 0.4 VDC and high level signals above 2.5 VDC. All signals listed above except REQ and the last six signals in the table are implemented as high impedance (TRI-STATE) drivers which may be shared by other host system devices using appropriate strobing.

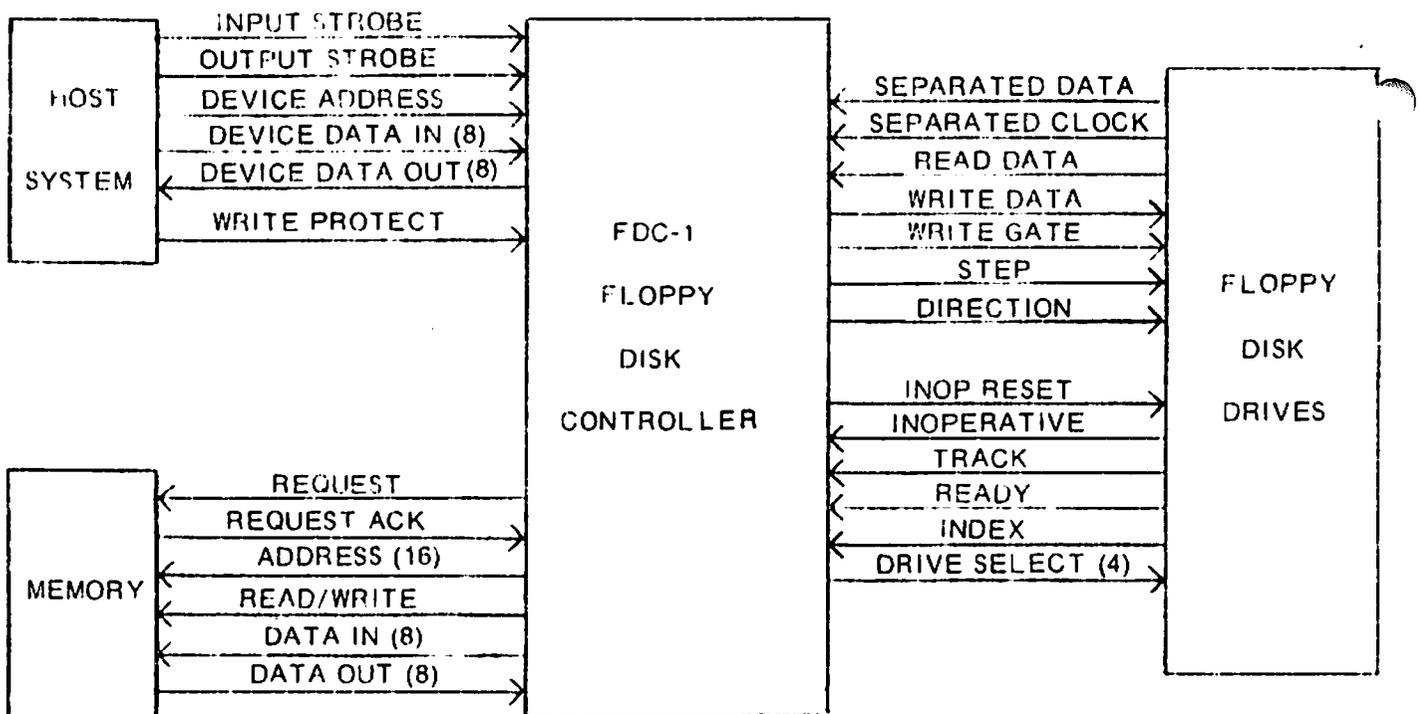


Figure 2. FDC-1 External Signals.

DEVICE INTERFACE

Interaction between the host processor or controlling hardware and the FDC is implemented by the device interface. The controller is idle until an eight bit address appears on the device address bus (-DEVi) and one of two strobes (OUT or -IN) appears simultaneously with the device address. Strobes cause decoding logic to sense the state of the -DEVi bus and, if it is presenting one of the set of addresses given below with the appropriate strobe, a set of actions occurs. With a device address and an OUT strobe, data bits present on the device output bus (-DOUTi) will affect the FDC as indicated below. Device addresses decoded with -IN will cause the FDC to drive status bits onto the device input bus (DINi) for use by the host system. All signals must be stable at their active level for a minimum of 200 nanoseconds.

Note the locations of the device address bus (-DEVi), device input bus (DINi), device output bus (-DOUTi), and strobes OUT and -IN on the table in Appendix 1.

Device 127D (177Q, 7F hex) is the status input device when strobed by -IN and the command output device when strobed by OUT. The status device delivers eight bits of disk system status to the device input bus bits 0 through 7. These bits will be stable 100 nanoseconds after the device address is available and remain stable for as long as the address and strobe are stable.

The status bits are:

- Bit 0: file inoperative - an error signal from the disk indicating invalid writing sequencing
- 1: step ready - indicates 10 milliseconds elapsed since the last step command was executed and the disk is able to execute further commands
- 2: track zero - indicates that the read/write head on the selected disk is positioned at the outermost track
- 3: I/O finish - indicates that the FDC has completed processing (or aborted because of an error condition) the previous read or write command
- 4: track error - indicates the byte read from memory at the initial DMA address did not match the track byte of an ID field actually read from the disk. The current command is aborted.
- 5: ID CRC error - a CRC error was encountered in the ID field of the requested track/sector. Read commands will complete but Write commands are aborted.
- 6: Data CRC error - indicates a CRC error in the data fields during a Read command
- 7: Head Unloaded - indicates at least eight revolutions of the disk have occurred since the last Read or Write command, and the hardware has unloaded the head of the selected disk. If a software error results in a request for a sector number greater than 26D, this bit and a zero bit 3 (I/O never finishes) will indicate the error as the FDC will search forever for the requested illegal sector.

When device address 127D appears with the OUT strobe, the bits on the device output bus (-DOUi) are interpreted by the FDC as command bits. The command register in the FDC is loaded using OUT as a strobe to the register.

The command bits are:

- Bit 0: file inoperative reset - required response to the file inoperative status bit
- 1: step - commands the selected drive to move in the direction selected by bit 2.
- 2: direction - directs the disk drive to step towards Track 77 (innermost) when active (-DOUT2 low) and towards Track 00 when inactive (-DOUT2 high).
- 3: enable - enables loading of drive select bits 4 and 5
- 4: drive select - low order of two decoded select bits
- 5: drive select - high order of two decoded select bits. Bits 4 and 5 are latched and decoded to select one of four drives as the recipient of all commands directed to the FDC system. If bit 3 (enable) is inactive, bits 4 and 5 are ignored in a command word and the previously selected drive is used.
- 6: Read - initiate reading. The address of the memory buffer has been preloaded into the FDC memory address register (see below) and the host system has positioned the selected disk at the desired track. The Read command causes the first byte of the buffer to be fetched and compared to the track ID read from the drive. A mismatch causes a Track error. The second byte of the buffer is fetched and specifies a Sector number and the FDC reads sector ID fields until a match occurs. The third buffer byte is loaded by the FDC with the address mark for the data field read, then 128 bytes are transferred from the drive to memory.
- 7: Write - initiates a write operation. Track and sector are identified as for a Read and a Track error aborts the operation. After positioning, using track and sector bytes from the memory buffer, the third byte is written as the address mark for the data field and the next 128 bytes transferred from memory to the drive.

Note that all bits, except disk select bits, are reset on the FDC at the completion or abort of a Read or Write command. All bits are cleared when the controller is reset (-IRESET, below).

Device address 126D (176Q, 7E hex) is decoded and made available to the host system on J1-56 as signal -IN126 whenever it is issued with the -IN strobe. It is suggested that the host system use the signal as a software issued restart command by implementing the logic equivalent of Figure 3. A further explanation of Figure 3 appears in the section on initializing the FDC below.

DMA INTERFACE

The DMA interface communicates directly with any compatible random access memory once a Read or Write command is initiated by the host system. This interface uses the DMA address register loaded by OUT devices 126D and 125D as a starting address and always employs 131 sequential bytes of memory for a disk transfer. When the FDC is ready to access memory for any single byte transfer, signal REQ (J2-55) is raised. Nothing occurs until signal ACK (J2-56) appears true, raised by the host memory system when a memory cycle is granted to the FDC. ACK should be raised within (30 - memory cycle time) microseconds of the leading edge of REQ in order to service the FDC in time. ACK must remain true during the entire memory cycle.

When ACK appears high at the FDC, REQ is lowered and the DMA address register is gated to the memory address bus MADi, and signal -WRITE is lowered if a memory write (disk read) is requested. Address lines are stable within 100 nanoseconds of the leading edge of ACK. If -WRITE remains high, a memory read (disk write) is in progress. For memory read, the host memory must gate the contents of the memory byte addressed by MADi onto the memory data out bus MDOUTi (8 bits). When the data is stable, signal ACK must be lowered. The trailing edge of ACK is used by the FDC to latch the data byte. Busses are then released by the FDC within 50 nanoseconds of the trailing edge of ACK.

If a memory write is requested, the memory address is also gated to the MADi bus when ACK appears. In addition, -WRITE is lowered and data to be written in memory is placed on the memory data input bus MDINi (8 bits). Once the host memory has captured the data and address, ACK should be lowered and the busses will be released.

The FDC requests 131 sequential bytes of data for each transfer. The first three bytes are disk address information: track number, sector number, and data address mark. The remaining 128 bytes are data. The FDC automatically increments the DMA address appropriately, formats data, and generates or checks CRC characters.

In summary, the FDC directly accesses up to 64 Kbytes of random access memory using a simple asynchronous handshaking protocol. Memory address, READ/WRITE, input data, and output data are used after a request is made and acknowledged indicating that a memory cycle is granted to the FDC. Memory buffers of 131 bytes are required for each transfer.

DISK INTERFACE

The disk interface is a set of signals on a separate 50 pin connector (J3) providing control and data paths to one to four drives.

A description of each available signal appears below. All are active low TTL level signals. An asterisk (*) next to the signal name indicates signals from the drive to the controller. A plus (+) indicates an optional signal not vital to the FDC operation. Refer to Appendix 1 for pinout of connector J3.

Device address 126D when strobed by the OUT signal loads the contents of the -DOUTi data bus into the most significant byte of the DMA address register. Data on the -DOUTi bus should be stable when the OUT strobe is issued.

Device address 125D (1750, 7D hex) when strobed by the .OUT signal loads the contents of the -DOUTi data bus into the least significant byte of the DMA address register.

In summary, the device interface provides address bits to activate the FDC, uses strobes -IN and OUT to synchronize the actions of the controller with a host system, and has data paths for status and control information. These paths are used by the FDC as follows:

STROBE	ADDRESS	HOST DATA IN	HOST DATA OUT
OUT	127D	none	command word
OUT	126D	none	MSByte DMA address
OUT	125D	none	LSByte DMA address
-IN	127D	status	none
-IN	126D	none	none (J1-56: -IN126)

	Name	Description
*+	-FILEINOP	disk file inoperative - an error condition from the drive detecting illegal signal conditions during write
+	-FIR	file inoperative reset - response to the FILEINOP condition from the host system via the command byte
*	-INDEX	index pulse indicating rotating diskette is at the beginning of a track
*	-READY	ready level indicating drive is in an operable condition (door closed, diskette up to speed, etc.)
	-DS0	disk select 0 - disk select lines are wired one line per drive
	-DS1	disk select 1
	-DS2	disk select 2
	-DS3	disk select 3
	-DIR	direction - indicates direction head should move in response to a -STEP pulse. A low (active) on -DIR indicates stepping toward diskette center, a high towards diskette edge (Track 0).
	-STEP	step - 10 microsecond pulse to drive when a head step in the indicated direction is required
	-WRITEDATA	interleaved clock and data pulses to be written onto diskette
	-WG	write gate - signal windowing WRITEDATA to enable drive for writing
*	-TRKZRO	track zero - active when drive detects head positioned at track 00
*+	-READATA	interleaved data and clock pulses from drive
*	-SD	separated data pulses from drive
*	-SC	separated clock pulses from drive

The FDC requires that the drive electronics provide clock pulses on the -SC line and data pulses without clocks on the -SD line. -READATA is unused. The -STEP pulse may be longer than 10 microseconds.

INITIALIZATION

The sample circuitry in Figure 3 illustrates the initialization requirements for the FDC. System wide reset circuitry should place a TTL low signal (-IRESET) on J1-55 to the FDC and preset signal BOOTSTRAP. Active low -BOOTSTRAP must be available to the FDC on J1-57. When the FDC completes its bootstrap procedure of reading track zero, sector one into DMA addresses 00-7F hex, it will issue 50 nanosecond pulse -IOF. In fact, -IOF is issued at the completion of every disk input or output operation. -IOF is used to clear the BOOTSTRAP latch which in turn may be used to signal the host system to begin execution of the bootstrap program now in low memory. BOOTSTRAP may be invoked under program control by issuing an -IN strobe with device address 126D. Signal -IN126 will appear on J1-56 and set BOOTSTRAP on its trailing edge.

POWER SYSTEM

+5 volts DC should be wired to pins 1,2,3, and 4 of both connectors J1 and J2. 2.5 amps may be drawn by the FDC. Pins 83, 84, 85, and 86 of both connectors should be grounded. All odd numbered pins on connector J3 are grounded.

WRITE PROTECT

The FDC provides write protection for the disk drive selected by signal -DS0 or all drives(jumper selectable). In order to allow writing, the DZPROT signal on J1-9 must be grounded (TTL "0") by the host system.

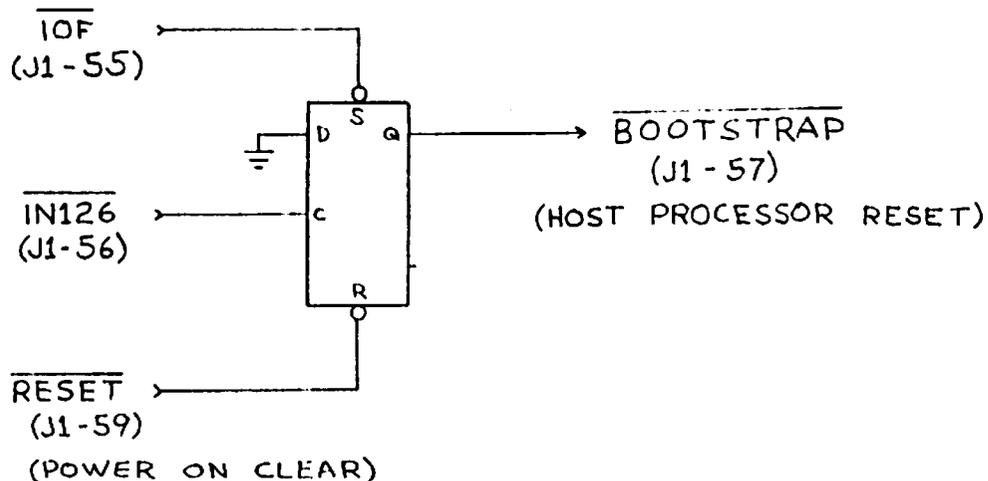


Figure 3. Initialization Circuitry.

SOFTWARE

The following system software control by the host CPU is required when using the FDC-1:

1. Software must step the head to the desired track (using STEP and DIRECTION bits of the command byte) before reading or writing.
2. The initial DMA address must be loaded (2 bytes) prior to issuing a READ or WRITE command.
3. The three bytes in memory starting at the DMA address must be set to the desired track, sector, and address mark (for write).
4. A simple retry scheme should be implemented to attempt recovery from disk errors. (For track error, seek track 0 and then desired track before retry).

Figures 4 to 7 contain flowcharts for the following routines:

HOME	-	seek track zero
STEP	-	step one track in or out
SEEK	-	seek any valid track
READ	-	read one sector
WRITE	-	write one sector

Assembly language code for the above routines is available for the 8080. Also available is a complete Disk Operating System for the 8080.

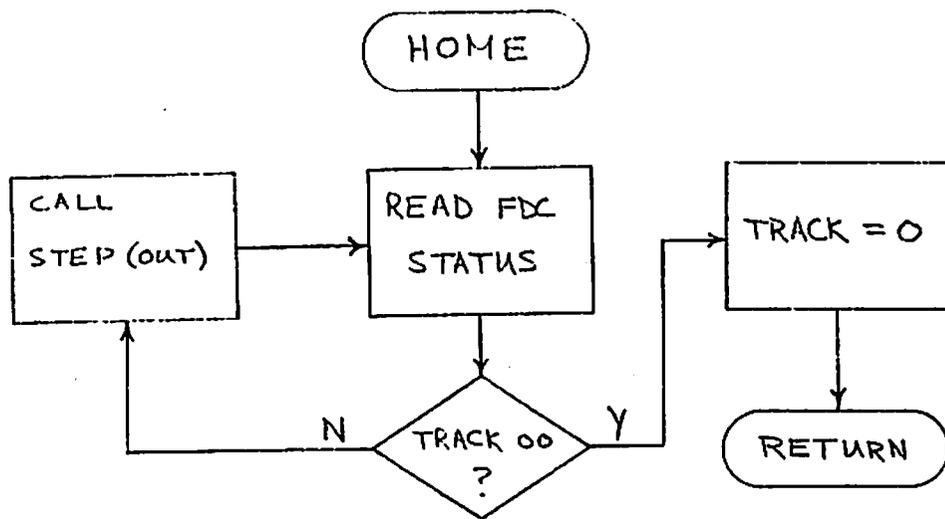


Figure 4. Subroutine HOME.

STEP (DIRECTION)

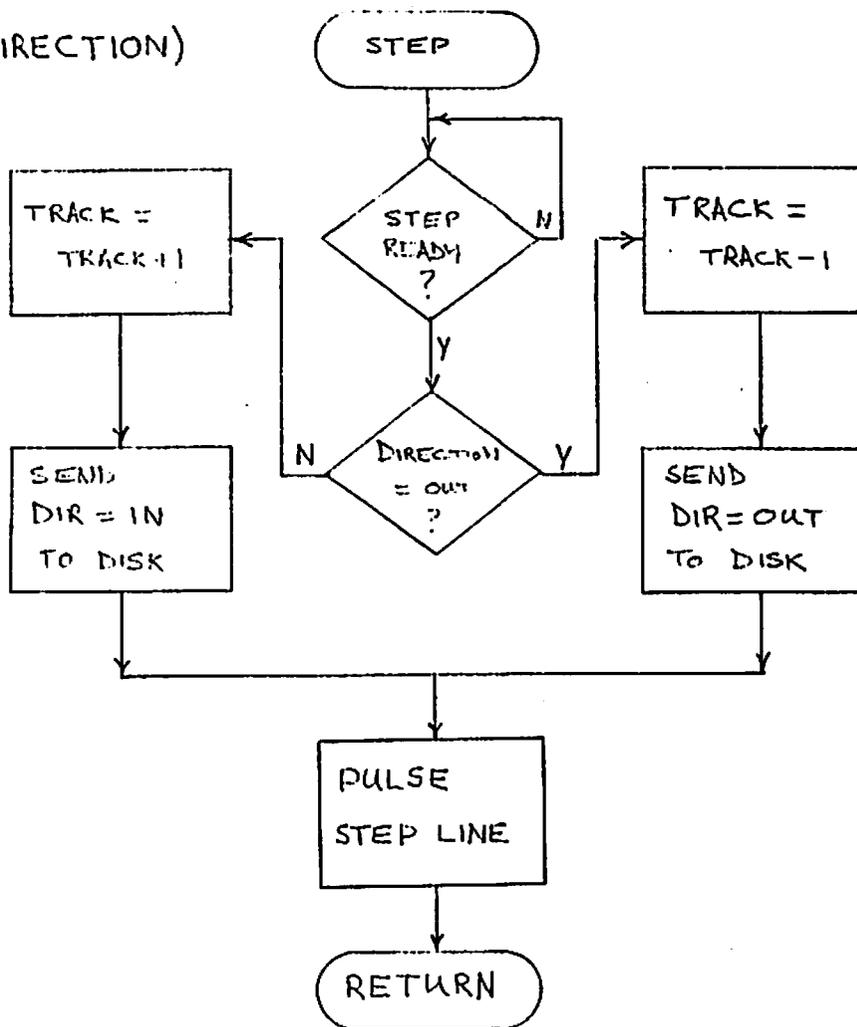


Figure 5. Subroutine STEP.

SEEK (N,ERR)

MOVE HEAD TO TRACK N

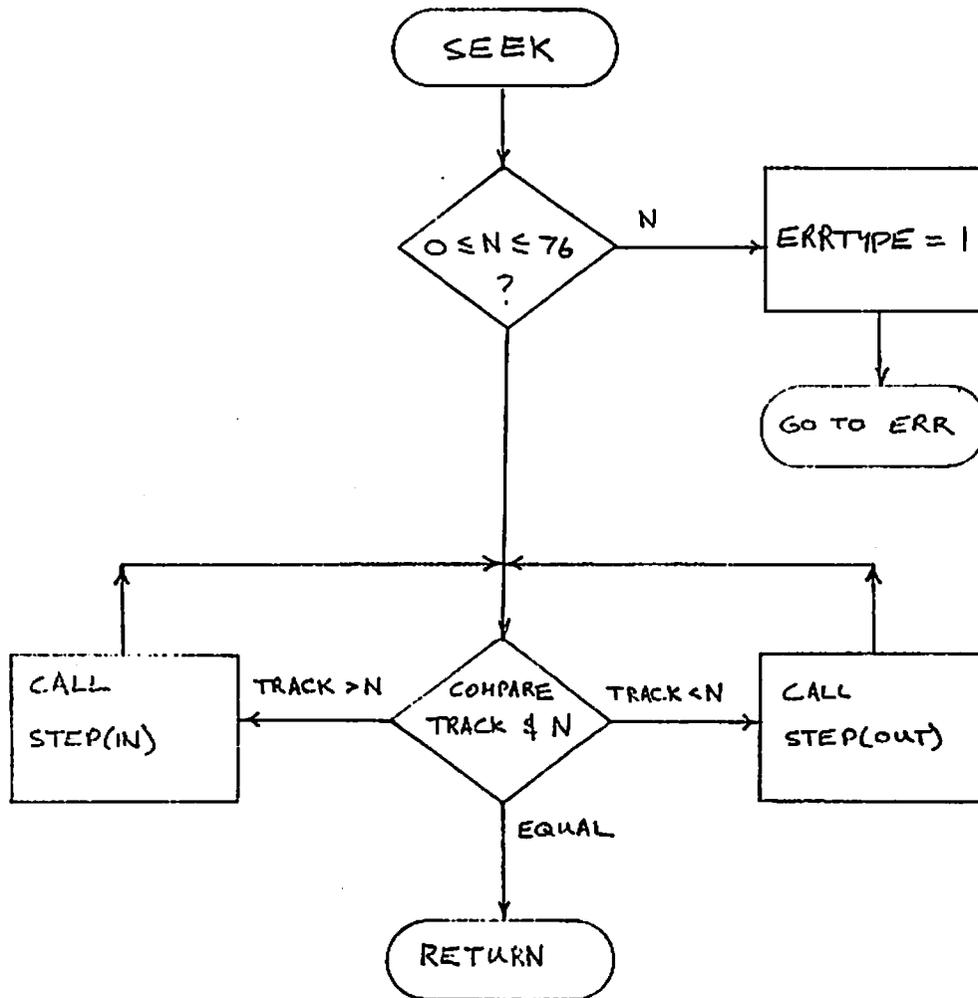


Figure 6. Subroutine SEEK.

READ or WRITE (TRK, SECT, BUF, ERR)

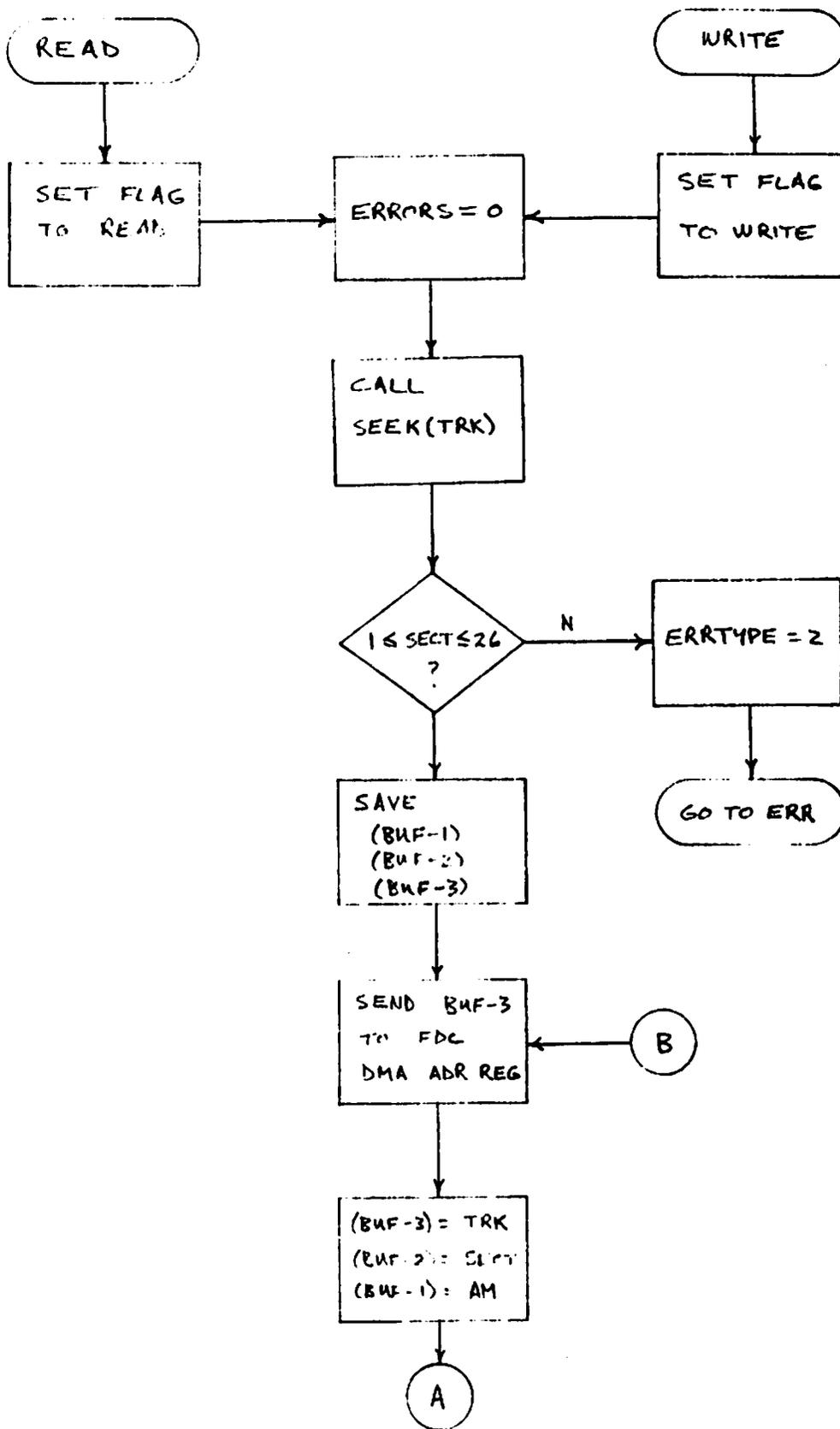


Figure 7. Subroutines READ and WRITE.

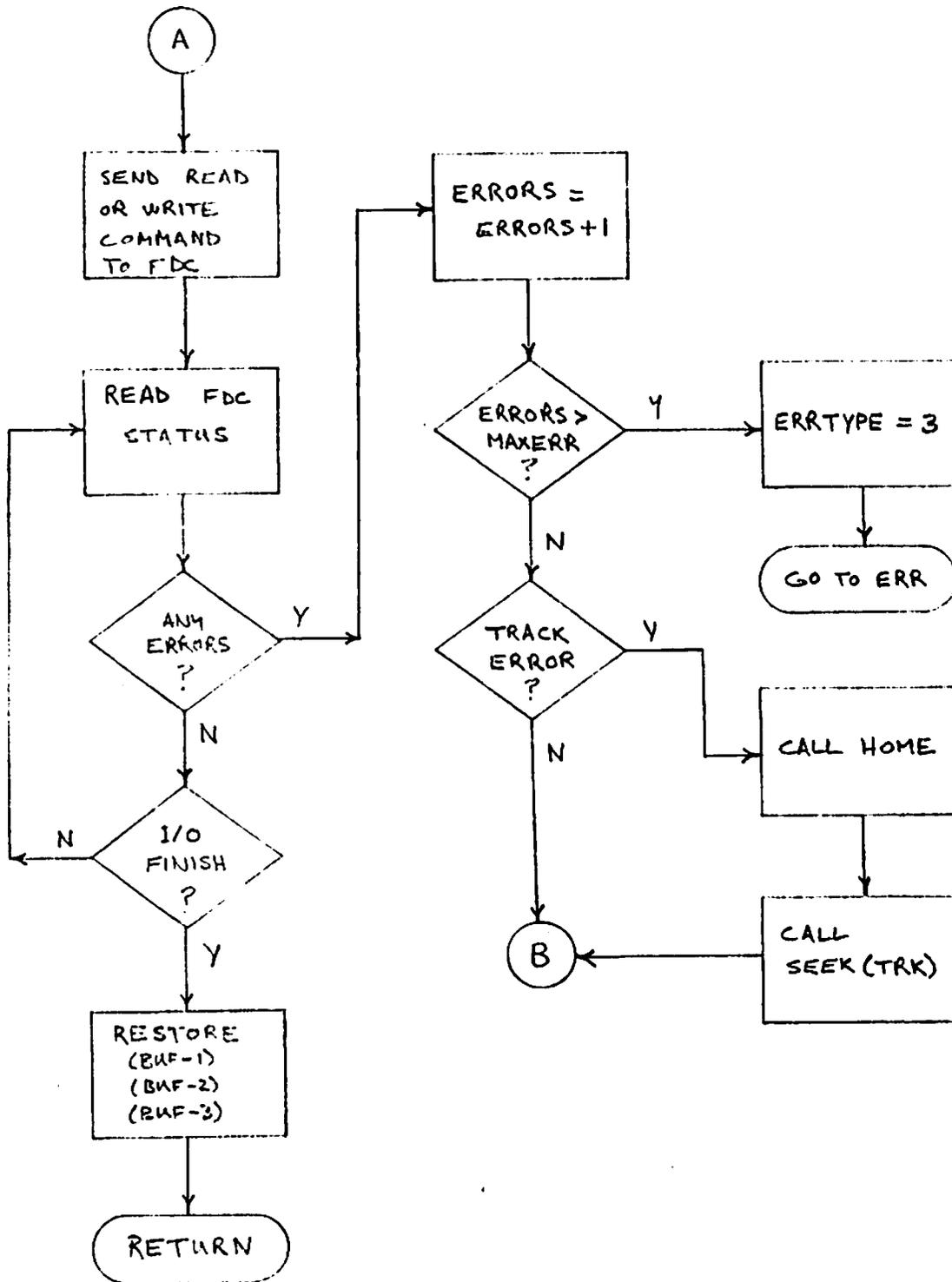


Figure 7a. Subroutines READ and WRITE (cont).

APPENDIX I EDGE CONNECTOR PINOUTS

J1 TOP EDGE CONNECTOR

1 +5 VDC	2 +5 VDC
3 +5 VDC	4 +5 VDC
5	6
7	8
9	10
11	12
13	14
15	16
17 GROUND	18 GROUND
19	20
21 -DEV0 (device address bus)	22 -DEV1
23 -DEV2	24 -DEV3
25 -DEV4	26 -DEV5
27 -DEV6	28 -DEV7
29 -DOUT0 (data out buss)	30 -DOUT1
31 -DOUT2	32 -DOUT3
33 -DOUT4	34 -DOUT5
35 -DOUT6	36 -DOUT7
37 DIN0 (data in buss)	38 DIN1
39 DIN2	40 DIN3
41 DIN4	42 DIN5
43 DIN6	44 DIN7
45 -IN (in strobe)	46 OUT (out strobe)
47	48
49	50
51	52
53	54
55 -IRESET (initial reset)	56 -IN126
57 -BOOTSTRAP	58
59 -IOF	60
61	62
63	64
65	66
67	68
69	70
71	72
73	74
75	76
77	78
79	80
81	82
83 GROUND	84 GROUND
85 GROUND	86 GROUND

1 + 5 VDC	2 + 5 VDC
3 + 5 VDC	4 + 5 VDC
5	6
7	8
9	10
11	12
13	14
15	16
17	18
19	20
21 MDIN0 (memory data in)	22 MDIN1
23 MDIN2	24 MDIN3
25 MDIN4	26 MDIN5
27 MDIN6	28 MDIN7
29 MAD0 (memory address buss)	30 MAD1
31 MAD2	32 MAD3
33 MAD4	34 MAD5
35 MAD6	36 MAD7
37 MAD8	38 MAD9
39 MAD10	40 MAD11
41 MAD12	42 MAD13
43 MAD14	44 MAD15
45	46
47 MDOUT0 (memory data out)	48 MDOUT1
49 MDOUT2	50 MDOUT3
51 MDOUT4	52 MDOUT5
53 MDOUT6	54 MDOUT7
55 REQ	56 ACK
57	58
59	60
61	62
63 -WRITE (read)	64
65	66
67 GROUND	68 GROUND
69	70
71	72
73	74
75	76
77	78
79	80
81	82
83 GROUND	84 GROUND
85 GROUND	86 GROUND

J3 DISK DRIVE CONNECTOR

The controller uses a 50 connector cable for communication with the disk drives. This cable is designated J3 in the system. Pinout for the cable is:

PIN	SIGNAL NAME
2	
4	
6	
8	
10	
12	
14	
16	-FILEINOP (disk file inoperative)
18	-FIR (file inoperative reset)
20	-INDEX
22	-READY
24	
26	-DS0 (disk select 0)
28	-DS1
30	-DS2
32	-DS3
34	-DIR (direction select)
36	-STEP
38	-WRITEDATA
40	-WG (write gate)
42	-TRKZR0 (track 0)
44	
46	-READATA
48	-SD (separated data)
50	-SC (separated clock)

ALL ODD PINS: GROUND