

Shugart Associates
475 Oakmead Parkway

Sunnyvale, California 94086

(408) 733-0100

January 29 1982

Mr. Gary S. Robinson, Chairman
ANSI Committee X3T9.3
c/o MS ML 12/3-E51
DIGITAL
146 Main Street
Maynard, MA. 01754

Subject: Shugart/NCR Joint Proposal for ANSI Standard System
Interface, Using SASI as the Working Document

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Shugart and NCR hereby offer a revised, increased performance
version of the SASI Specification, as agreed at the December
meeting in San Diego.

Principal among the areas of upgrade are provisions for:
1) longer cable lengths, 2) extended addressing, 3) standard
message protocol, 4) structured device-independent command
set, and 5) added timing considerations for bus arbitration.
Consideration has been effectively maintained for current
SASI implementations offered by controller companies such as
DTC, SMS, OMTI, Xebec, etc.

Both Shugart and NCR believe that operation within the frame-
work of X3T9.2 (as was suggested during the December, 1981
meeting) would be a workable, expedient way to proceed.

Very truly yours,

Henry J. Meyer

Henry T. Meyer, Shugart

John B. Lohmeyer

John B. Lohmeyer, NCR

cc: Members and Alternates

FWX 90-339-9355 SHUGART 9/81

SASI

SHUGART ASSOCIATES SYSTEM INTERFACE

Rev. C 1/29/82

INTRODUCTION

This Shugart Associates System Interface defines a Local I/O Bus specification which can be operated at data rates up to 1.5 megabytes per second. The primary objective of the interface is to provide host computers with device independence, within a type of devices. Thus, disk drives, tape drives, printers and even communication devices, of different type, can be added to the host computer without requiring modifications to generic system hardware or software. Provision is made for the ready addition of non-generic features and functions.

The interface is designed for the compatible operation of a wide range of host and device capabilities, including low cost, low function capabilities, as well as higher cost, higher function capabilities. This gives the interface a great deal of generality.

The interface uses "logical" rather than "physical" addressing for all data structures. All data is addressed as logical blocks up to the maximum number of blocks in a device; and, each device can be interrogated to determine how many blocks it contains.

Provision is made for cable lengths up to 15 meters using two choices of drivers and receivers → one choice aimed primarily at in-cabinet mounting and short cable lengths (to six meters) → the other choice aimed at out-of-the-cabinet mounting and longer cable lengths.

The interface protocol includes provision for the connection of multiple initiators (SASI bus devices capable of initiating an operation) and multiple targets (SASI bus devices capable of responding to a request to perform an operation). Arbitration (i.e., bus-contention logic) is built into the architecture of SASI. A logical priority system awards interface control to a SASI bus device that wins arbitration.

SCOPE

The scope of this document, at this level of revision, encompasses primarily rotating memory devices (disk drives). It consists of two specifications.

The specification in Part A (previously referred to as a hardware specification) is now called a "physical path" specification. It defines the physical components of the interface (as well as the function of each line). It contains all of the specifications associated with obtaining and maintaining control of the SASI bus. Additionally, it contains definitions of the message protocol which links the SASI bus devices to each other and controls the physical path between them.

The specification in Part B (previously referred to as the software command set) is herein referred to as the functional specification. It defines the operation of the interface in detail, which in turn defines the operation of the bus devices (controllers or hosts). It also defines the functions which are standard ... the functions which are optional ... and the responses to the execution of these functions.

PART A

PHYSICAL PATH SPECIFICATION

1.0 SCOPE

This is the physical PATH definition of the Shugart Associates System Interface (SASI), which is designed to provide an efficient method of communication between computers and peripheral input/output devices.

SASI is implemented using an eight-port bus which includes the following key features:

- Single or multiple host computer system.
- Bus contention handled via self-arbitration on a prioritized basis.
- Accomodation of multiple peripheral device types.
- Asynchronous communication to approximately 1.5 MBytes/sec.
- Multiple overlap of peripheral device operations.
- Direct copy between peripheral devices.
- Oriented toward intelligent peripheral devices.

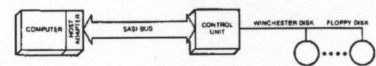
The practical application of this SASI physical layer* path specification will require a higher level software command set document (see Part B).

2.0 SASI BUS

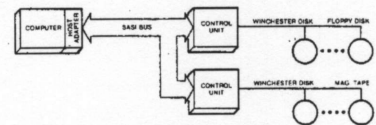
Communication on the SASI Bus is allowed between two SASI BUS PORTS at any given time. There is a maximum of eight (8) BUS PORTS allowed. Each port is attached to a SASI DEVICE (e.g., peripheral device controller or host computer).

When two SASI BUS DEVICES communicate on the bus, one acts as an INITIATOR and the other acts as a TARGET. The INITIATOR (typically a host computer) starts an operation and the TARGET (typically a peripheral device controller) performs the operation. A SASI BUS DEVICE will usually have a fixed role as an INITIATOR or TARGET, but some may be able to assume either role.

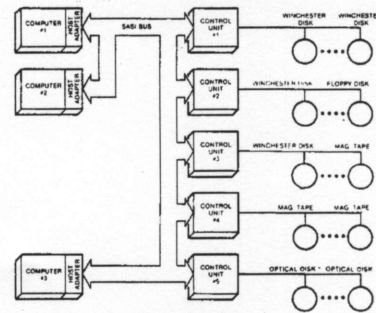
An INITIATOR may address up to eight (8) peripheral I/O devices that are connected to a TARGET. Three sample system configurations are shown in Figure 2.0.



SIMPLE SYSTEM



BASIC TWO CONTROL UNIT SYSTEM



COMPLEX SYSTEM

Up to 8 SASI DEVICES can be supported by the SASI bus. They can be any combination of host CPU's and intelligent controllers.

Figure 2.0 SAMPLE SASI CONFIGURATIONS

-1-

-2-

Certain bus functions are assigned to the INITIATOR and certain bus functions are assigned to the TARGET. The INITIATOR may arbitrate for the bus and select a particular TARGET. The TARGET may request the transfer of COMMAND, DATA, STATUS or other information on the bus, and in some cases it may arbitrate for the bus and reselect an INITIATOR for the purpose of continuing some operation.

Data transfers on the bus are asynchronous and follow a defined REQUEST/ACKNOWLEDGE HANDSHAKE protocol. One eight-bit byte of information may be transferred with each handshake.

2.1 SASI PHYSICAL PATH PHILOSOPHY

Consider the system shown in Figure 2.0A where an INITIATOR and TARGET communicate on the SASI bus in order to execute some command (e.g., READ or WRITE data). Since it would be combersome to briefly describe these functions at the detailed level of the bus, a higher level of description is used here. Only one of a number of possible partitions of the physical/functional interface is presented for illustration.

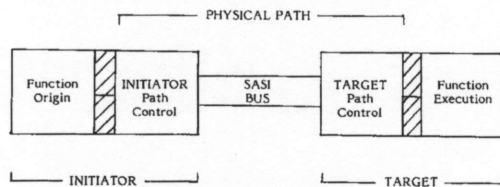


Figure 2.0A PHYSICAL PATH

2.1.1 Pointers

Note that in the SASI architecture there are three "conceptual" memory address pointers which are used to access three "conceptual" byte wide memory areas. The pointers, which as presented here, reside in the INITIATOR path control, are reserved for the COMMAND, DATA and STATUS.

After the pointers are initially loaded by the INITIATOR, their movement is under strict control of the TARGET. When it transfers a byte of information to or from the three areas, the corresponding pointer increments.

2.1.2 Typical Functions (External to Path Control)

Listed below are some typical functions that affect the physical path but come from outside the physical path boundary.

- **Establish Command Path** This function allows the INITIATOR to set up the physical path (the physical and logical connection between the INITIATOR and a particular peripheral device for the purpose of executing some peripheral device command. This may involve arbitration to gain ownership of the SASI bus. This function requires the peripheral device address (i.e., SASI TARGET bus address and LUN within that address). Also required are the three pointers to the COMMAND, DATA and STATUS areas. A saved copy of these pointers may also be required (see "Reestablish Path" and "Restore State" functions).
- **Get Command** This function allows a TARGET to fetch a COMMAND from the area pointed to by the COMMAND pointer.
- **Get Data and Send Data** These functions allow the TARGET to transfer data to or from the area pointed to by the DATA pointer.
- **Send Status** This allows the TARGET to send STATUS information for a command to the area pointed to by the STATUS pointer.
- **End of Command** This function is sent by the TARGET to indicate that the current command terminated and that valid status has been sent. (Note that the current command may be chained to another command.)
- **End Path** The TARGET uses this function to completely clear the physical path with regards to the currently attached peripheral device. A new command can thus be accepted for this device.
- **Break Path** This function is done by the TARGET to temporarily break the physical path so that others may use the SASI bus.
- **Reestablish Path** The TARGET uses this function to establish a physical path connection that was temporarily broken by the "Break Path"

-3-

-3a-

function. An indication of the INITIATOR's SASI bus address and the peripheral device address are required. SASI bus arbitration is also required. The INITIATOR must restore the COMMAND, DATE and STATUS pointers to their last saved values.

- End of Link This function is sent by the TARGET to indicate that the current command has terminated but that it was linked to another command so that the physical path connection is still needed. Note that this function is used only when no status for the command is required.
- Save State The TARGET uses this function to save a copy of the current (active) COMMAND, DATA and STATUS pointers for the currently connected physical device.
- Restore State The TARGET uses this function to load the current (active) COMMAND, DATA and STATUS pointers with the last saved values.

2.2 BUS SIGNALS

There are nine (9) control signals and nine (9) data signals (including parity), as listed below:

- BSY
- SEL
- C/D
- I/O
- MSG
- REQ
- ACK
- ATN
- RST
- DB (7-0, P) (Data Bus)

-3b-

These signals are described below:

- BSY (BUSY) An "or-tied" signal which generally indicates when the bus is being used.
- SEL (SELECT) An "or-tied" signal used by an INITIATOR to select a TARGET or by a TARGET to reselect an INITIATOR.

-3c-

- C/D (CONTROL/DATA) A signal driven by a TARGET; it generally indicates whether CONTROL or DATA information is on the data bus. Assertion indicates CONTROL.
- I/O (INPUT/OUTPUT) A signal driven by a TARGET which indicates the direction of data movement on the data bus with respect to an INITIATOR. Assertion indicates INPUT to the INITIATOR.
- MSG (MESSAGE) A signal driven by a TARGET during the MESSAGE phase.
- REQ (REQUEST) A signal driven by a TARGET to indicate a request for a REQ/ACK data transfer handshake.
- ACK (ACKNOWLEDGE) A signal driven by an INITIATOR to indicate an acknowledgement for a REQ/ACK data transfer handshake.
- ATN (ATTENTION) A signal driven by an INITIATOR to indicate the ATTENTION condition.
- RST (RESET) An "or-tied" signal which indicates the RESET condition.
- DB(7-0,P) (DATA BUS) Eight data bit signals, plus a parity bit signal which form a DATA BUS. DB(7) is the most significant bit and has the highest priority during ARBITRATION. Bit number, significance and priority decrease downward to DB(0).

Data parity DB(P) is odd. The use of parity is a system option (i.e., a system is configured so that all SASI DEVICES on a bus generate parity and have parity detection enabled, or all SASI DEVICES have parity detection disabled. Parity is not valid during the ARBITRATION phase.

-4-

Each of the eight data signals DB(7) through DB(0) is uniquely assigned as a TARGET or INITIATOR's own SASI BUS address (i.e., SASI DEVICE ID). This SASI DEVICE ID would normally be assigned and strapped in a SASI DEVICE during system configuration.

During ARBITRATION, a SASI DEVICE that desires the use of the SASI BUS asserts its assigned data bit (SASI DEVICE ID) but leaves the other data bits in the passive (non-driven) state. Thus, a SASI DEVICE may use one data bit driver for its SASI DEVICE ID during ARBITRATION and a different driver when driving the complete data bus in other phases of the bus operation.

2.3 BUS PHASES

The bus has eight (8) distinct operational phases:

- BUS FREE Phase
- ARBITRATION Phase
- SELECTION Phase
- RESELECTION Phase
- COMMAND Phase
- DATA Phase
- STATUS Phase
- MESSAGE Phase

These phases are collectively termed the INFORMATION TRANSFER phases.

The bus can never be in more than one phase at any given time. Unless otherwise noted, the following descriptions assume that bus signals which are not mentioned will not be asserted.

2.3.1 Bus Free Phase

Purpose:

The BUS FREE phase is used to indicate that no SASI DEVICE is actively using the bus and that the bus is available for subsequent users.

SASI Device Implementation Procedures:

-5-

The BUS FREE phase is created by the deassertion and passive release of all bus signals.

SASI DEVICES shall detect the BUS FREE phase by the simultaneous (within a DESKEW DELAY) condition of both SEL and BSY not asserted while the RESET condition is not active.

During the BUS FREE phase, all active SASI DEVICES shall immediately deassert and passively release all bus signals (within a BUS CLEAR DELAY) after the BSY and SEL signals are deasserted from the bus.

2.3.2 Arbitration Phase

Purpose:

The ARBITRATION phase allows one SASI DEVICE to gain control of the bus so that this device can assume the role of an INITIATOR or TARGET.

Option:

Implementation of the ARBITRATION phase is a system option. Systems with no ARBITRATION phase can have only one INITIATOR. The ARBITRATION phase is required for systems which use the RESELECTION phase.

SASI Device Implementation Procedure:

After a SASI DEVICE ^{that wants the BUS} detects the BUS FREE phase it waits a minimum of BUS FREE DELAY and a maximum of BUS SET DELAY in order to assert BSY and its own SASI DEVICE ID on the bus. (The time required for the device to detect the BUS FREE phase should be included in the measurement of the amount of time that the device waits.)

Note: The SASI DEVICE ID is asserted on the DATA BIT signal that corresponds to the device's unique BUS ADDRESS. All other DATA BUS drivers in this SASI DEVICE must be passive. Data parity is not guaranteed valid during ARBITRATION.

The SASI DEVICE will immediately clear itself from arbitration (within a BUS CLEAR DELAY time) by deasserting its BSY and ID signals if SEL is asserted by any other SASI DEVICE.

After an ARBITRATION DELAY (measured from the assertion of BSY) the SASI DEVICE examines the DATA bus. If a higher priority SASI DEVICE ID is on the bus (DB(7) = highest) then the SASI DEVICE clears itself from ARBITRATION by deasserting its BSY and ID signals. If the SASI DEVICE determines that its own ID is the highest asserted, then it wins ARBITRATION and asserts SEL; (after the assertion of SEL the SASI DEVICE must wait a minimum of two BUS SETTLE DELAYS before changing the assertion of any bus signals).

-6-

2.3.3 Selection Phase

Purpose:

The SELECTION phase allows an INITIATOR to select a TARGET for the purpose of initiating some TARGET function(s), (e.g. read or write data).

SASI Device Implementation Procedure:

Note: All during the SELECTION phase the I/O signal is not asserted so that this phase can be distinguished from the RESELECTION phase.

In systems where the ARBITRATION phase is not implemented, the INITIATOR first detects the BUS FREE phase and then waits a minimum of BUS SETTLE DELAY. Then the INITIATOR asserts the DATA BUS with both the desired TARGET's ID and its own INITIATOR ID. After two DESKEW DELAYS the INITIATOR asserts SEL.

In systems with ARBITRATION implemented, the BSY and SEL signals will be asserted by an INITIATOR when going from the ARBITRATION phase to the SELECTION phase. Also, a minimum of two BUS SETTLE DELAYS will have been waited. The INITIATOR then asserts the DATA BUS with both the desired TARGET's ID and its own INITIATOR ID. After these assertions, the INITIATOR waits at least two DESKEW DELAYS and then deasserts BSY. The INITIATOR then waits ~~two more DESKEW DELAYS~~ ^{a BUS SETTLE DELAY} before looking for a response from the TARGET.

In all systems, the selected TARGET detects the simultaneous (within a DESKEW DELAY) condition of SEL and its own SASI DEVICE ID asserted, and both BSY and I/O not asserted. The selected TARGET may sample the DATA BUS to determine the SASI DEVICE ID of the INITIATOR that is doing the selecting. The selected TARGET then responds by asserting BSY. (Note that in systems with parity implemented, the TARGET will not respond to a SASI DEVICE ID ~~that has bad parity~~ ^{if detected}.)

At least two DESKEW DELAYS after the INITIATOR detects BSY sent from the TARGET, it deasserts SEL and may change the DATA signals.

2.3.4 Reselection Phase

Purpose:

The RESELECTION phase allows a TARGET to reconnect to an INITIATOR for the purpose of continuing some operation that was previously started by the INITIATOR but was interrupted by the TARGET; (i.e., the TARGET disconnected by allowing a BUS FREE phase to occur before the operation was complete).

-7-

Option Notes

RESELECTION can only be used in systems that have ARBITRATION implemented.

SASI Device Implementation Procedure:

After the TARGET has gone through the ARBITRATION phase, it will be asserting BSY and SEL and will have waited a minimum of two BUS SETTLE DELAYS. The TARGET then asserts the I/O signal and also asserts the DATA BUS with the desired INITIATOR's ID and its own TARGET ID. After these assertions the TARGET waits at least two DESKEW DELAYS and then deasserts BSY. The TARGET then waits two more DESKEW DELAYS before looking for a response from the INITIATOR.

The reselected INITIATOR detects the simultaneous (within a DESKEW DELAY) condition of SEL, I/O and its own SASI DEVICE ID asserted, and BSY not asserted. The reselected INITIATOR may sample the DATA BUS to determine the SASI DEVICE ID of the TARGET that is doing the RESELECTION. The reselected INITIATOR then responds by asserting BSY. (Note that in systems with parity implemented the INITIATOR will not respond to a DEVICE ID that has bad parity.)

After the TARGET detects BSY sent from the INITIATOR, the TARGET will: (1) also assert BSY and continue the assertion until it is done using the bus; and (2) wait at least two DESKEW DELAYS and then deasserts SEL and possibly change the I/O and DATA signals.

The reselected INITIATOR detects the deassertion of SEL and releases its assertion of BSY.

2.3.5 Information Transfer Phases (COMMAND, DATA, STATUS and MESSAGE Phases)

Common Notes:

The COMMAND, DATA, STATUS and MESSAGE phases can all be grouped together as the INFORMATION TRANSFER phases because they are all used to transfer data or control information via the DATA BUS. The actual contents of the information is beyond the scope of this section.

The C/D, I/O and MSG signals are used to distinguish between the different INFORMATION TRANSFER phases. See Table 2.0.

-8/9-

TABLE 2.0 INFORMATION TRANSFER PHASES

MSG	SIGNAL		PHASE NAME	DIRECTION OF INFORMATION XFER	COMMENT
	C/D	I/O			
0	0	0	DATA OUT PHASE	(INIT to TARG)	DATA PHASES
0	0	1	DATA IN PHASE	(INIT from TARG)	
0	1	0	COMMAND PHASE	(INIT to TARG)	
0	1	1	STATUS PHASE	(INIT from TARG)	
1	0	0			
1	0	1	*		
1	1	0	MSG OUT PHASE	(INIT to TARG)	MESSAGE PHASES
1	1	1	MSG IN PHASE	(INIT from TARG)	

Notes: 0 = SIGNAL DEASSERTION, 1 = SIGNAL ASSERTION.
INIT = INITIATOR, TARG = TARGET.
* = Not used.

The INFORMATION TRANSFER phases use one or more REQ/ACK handshakes to control the data transfer. Each REQ/ACK allows the transfer of one byte of data. The REQ/ACK handshake starts with the TARGET asserting the REQ signal. The INITIATOR responds by asserting the ACK signal. The TARGET then deasserts the REQ signal. The INITIATOR again responds by deasserting the ACK signal.

If the I/O signal is asserted, data will be INPUT into the INITIATOR from the TARGET. The TARGET shall guarantee that valid data is available on the bus at the INITIATOR's port at least a DESKEW DELAY before the assertion of REQ is valid at the INITIATOR's port. The data shall remain valid until the assertion of ACK by the INITIATOR. It shall be the TARGET's responsibility to compensate for the cable skew and the skew of its own drivers.

If the I/O signal is NOT asserted, data will be OUTPUT from the INITIATOR into the TARGET. The INITIATOR shall guarantee that it has placed valid data on the bus no later than a DESKEW DELAY after its assertion of ACK on the bus. Valid data shall remain on the bus until the TARGET deasserts REQ. It shall be the TARGET's responsibility to compensate for the cable skew and the skew of its own receivers.

During each INFORMATION TRANSFER phase the BSY line shall remain asserted and the SEL line shall remain deasserted. Additionally, during each INFORMATION TRANSFER phase the TARGET shall continuously envelope the REQ/ACK handshake(s) with the C/D, I/O and MSG signals in such a manner that these control signals are valid for a BUS SETTLE DELAY before the REQ of the first handshake and remain valid until the deassertion of ACK at the end of the last handshake.

-10-

2.3.6 Command Phase

Purpose:

The **COMMAND** phase allows the **TARGET** to request command information from the **INITIATOR**.

SASI Device Implementation Procedure:

The **TARGET** asserts the C/D signal and deasserts the I/O and MSG signals during the REQ/ACK handshake(s) of this phase.

2.3.7 Data Phase

The **DATA** phase is a term that encompasses both the **DATA IN** phase and the **DATA OUT** phase.

2.3.7.1 Data In Phase

Purpose:

The **DATA IN** phase allows the **TARGET** to request that data be **INPUT** to the **INITIATOR** from the **TARGET**.

SASI Device Implementation Procedure:

The **TARGET** asserts the I/O signal and deasserts the C/D and MSG signals during the REQ/ACK handshake(s) of this phase.

2.3.7.2 Data Out Phase

Purpose:

The **DATA OUT** phase allows the **TARGET** to request that data be **OUTPUT** from the **INITIATOR** to the **TARGET**.

SASI Device Implementation Procedure:

The **TARGET** deasserts the C/D, I/O and MSG signals during the REQ/ACK handshake(s) of this phase.

2.3.8 Status Phase

Purpose:

The **STATUS** phase allows the **TARGET** to request that status information be sent from the **TARGET** to the **INITIATOR**.

SASI Device Implementation Procedure:

The **TARGET** asserts C/D and I/O and it deasserts the MSG signal during the REQ/ACK handshake(s) of this phase.

-11-

2.3.9 Message Phase

The **MESSAGE** phase is a term that encompasses the **MESSAGE IN**, and **MESSAGE OUT** phases.

2.3.9.1 Message In Phase

Purpose:

The **MESSAGE IN** phase allows the **TARGET** to request that **MESSAGES** be **INPUT** to the **INITIATOR** from the **TARGET**.

SASI Device Implementation Procedure:

The **TARGET** asserts C/D, I/O and MSG during the REQ/ACK handshake(s) of this phase.

2.3.9.2 Message Out Phase

Purpose:

The **MESSAGE OUT** phase allows the **TARGET** to request that a **MESSAGE** be **OUTPUT** from the **INITIATOR** to the **TARGET**. The **TARGET** may invoke this phase at its convenience only in response to the **ATTENTION** condition created by the **INITIATOR**.

SASI Device Implementation Procedure:

In response to the **ATTENTION** condition, the **TARGET** asserts C/D and MSG and deasserts the I/O signal during the REQ/ACK handshake(s) of this phase. (See **ATTENTION** condition description.)

2.3.10 Signal Restrictions Between Phases

When the **BUS** is between two phases, the following restrictions shall apply to the bus signals:

- The **BSY**, **SEL**, **REQ** and **ACK** signals shall not change.
- The **C/D**, **I/O**, **MSG** and **DATA** signals may change.
- The **ATN** and **RST** signals may change as defined under the descriptions for the **ATTENTION** and **RESET** conditions.

-12-

2.4 BUS CONDITIONS

The bus has two asynchronous conditions:

- **ATTENTION** Condition.
- **RESET** Condition.

These conditions cause certain **BUS DEVICE** actions and can alter the bus phase sequence.

2.4.1 Attention Condition

Purpose:

The **ATTENTION** condition allows an **INITIATOR** to inform a **TARGET** that the **INITIATOR** has a **MESSAGE** ready. The **TARGET** may get this message at its convenience by performing a **MESSAGE OUT** phase.

SASI Device Implementation Procedure:

The **INITIATOR** creates the **ATTENTION** condition by asserting **ATN** at any time except during the **ARBITRATION** or **BUS FREE** phases.

The **TARGET** may respond with the **MESSAGE OUT** phase.

The **INITIATOR** may keep **ATN** asserted if more than one byte is to be transferred.

The **INITIATOR** deasserts the **ATN** signal during: (1) the **RESET** condition, or when the bus goes to a **BUS FREE** phase, or (2) while the **REQ** signal is asserted and the **ACK** signal is not yet asserted during the last **REQ/ACK** handshake of a **MESSAGE OUT** phase.

2.4.3 Reset Condition

Purpose:

The **RESET** condition is used to immediately clear all **SASI DEVICES** from the bus and to reset these devices and their associated equipment (as required).

SASI Device Implementation Procedure:

Note: This condition takes precedence over all other phases and conditions.

The **RESET** condition can occur at any time.

Any **SASI DEVICE** (whether active or not) can create the **RESET** condition. The **RESET** condition should be used with caution because of its possible effects.

-13-

The **RESET** condition is created by the assertion of the **RST** signal.

When the **RESET** condition exists, all **SASI DEVICES** will immediately (within a **BUS CLEAR DELAY**) deassert and passively release all bus signals except **RST** itself. In addition all **SASI DEVICES** and their associated equipment shall be reset to initial conditions (as required).

The **RESET** condition shall be on for a minimum of a **RESET HOLD TIME**.

During the **RESET** condition, no bus signal except **RST** is guaranteed to be in a valid state.

Regardless of what bus phase may have been interrupted, following the **RESET** condition the bus shall go to a **BUS FREE** phase and then start a normal phase sequence.

2.5 PHASE SEQUENCING

The order in which phases are used on the bus follow a prescribed sequence.

In all systems, the **RESET** condition can interrupt any phase and is always followed by the **BUS FREE** phase. Also, any other phase can be followed by the **BUS FREE** phase.

In systems where the **ARBITRATION** phase is not implemented, the allowable sequencing is shown in Figure 2.1. The normal progression would be from the **BUS FREE** phase to **SELECTION**, and from **SELECTION** to one or more of the **INFORMATION TRANSFER** phases (**COMMAND**, **DATA**, **STATUS** or **MESSAGE**).

In systems where the **ARBITRATION** phase is implemented, the allowable sequencing is shown in Figure 2.2. The normal progression would be from the **BUS FREE** phase to **ARBITRATION**, from **ARBITRATION** to **SELECTION** or **RESELECTION**, and from **SELECTION** or **RESELECTION** to one or more of the **INFORMATION TRANSFER** phases (**COMMAND**, **DATA**, **STATUS** or **MESSAGE**).

There are no restrictions on the sequencing between **INFORMATION TRANSFER** phases. A phase may even follow itself (e.g., a **DATA** phase may be followed by another **DATA** phase).

-14-

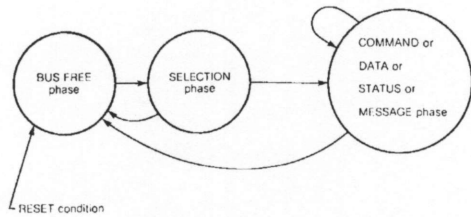


Figure 2.1 PHASE SEQUENCING
(For systems with no arbitration)

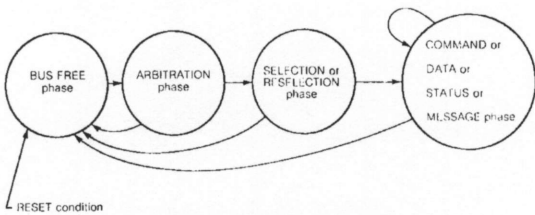


Figure 2.2 PHASE SEQUENCING
(For systems with arbitration)

- RETRY (05)** *Transmission Error (05)* Sent from an INITIATOR to inform a TARGET that an INITIATOR-detected error has occurred since the last time the state of the physical path was saved. *The TARGET may, at its option, retry the state from the last saved state or terminate with an appropriate status.*
- ABORT (06)** Sent from an INITIATOR to direct a TARGET to abort the current command.
- MESSAGE REJECT (07)** Sent from either the INITIATOR or TARGET to indicate that the last message it received was inappropriate or has not been implemented.
Notes: In order to indicate its intentions of sending this message, the INITIATOR must assert the ATN signal prior to its release of ACK for the REQ/ACK handshake of the message that will be rejected.
- NO OPERATION (08)** Sent from an INITIATOR in response to a TARGET's request for a message when the INITIATOR does not currently have any other valid message to send.
- MESSAGE PARITY ERROR (09)** Sent from either the INITIATOR or TARGET to indicate that the last message it received had a parity error.
Notes: In order to indicate its intentions of sending this message, the INITIATOR must assert the ATN signal prior to its release of ACK for the REQ/ACK handshake of the message that has the parity error.
- LINKED COMMAND COMPLETE (0A)** Sent from a TARGET to an INITIATOR to indicate that the execution of a command has *terminated* but that status *was* not sent to the INITIATOR. *has been completed*
The INITIATOR responds to this message by initializing the state for the next linked command in the sequence.

2.6 SIGNAL ASSERTIONS

(To be specified.)

2.7 MESSAGE SYSTEM

The message system allows communication between an INITIATOR and TARGET for the purpose of physical path management.

2.7.1 Messages

The messages are listed along with their coded values (in HEX) and their definitions.

- COMMAND COMPLETE (00)** Sent from a TARGET to an INITIATOR to indicate that the execution of a command has terminated and that valid status has been sent to the INITIATOR.
- EXTENDED MESSAGE FOLLOWS (01)** Sent from either INITIATOR or TARGET to indicate that a multiple byte message will follow. (Note that no extended messages are currently defined, but that the first byte of an extended message has been reserved as a length indicator for the number of bytes to follow it. A value of zero indicates 256 bytes.)
- SAVE STATE (02)** Sent from a TARGET to direct an INITIATOR to save a copy of the physical path for the currently attached LUN.
- RESTORE STATE (03)** Sent from a TARGET to direct an INITIATOR to restore its physical path to the most recently saved state for the currently attached LUN.
- DISCONNECT (04)** Sent from a TARGET to inform an INITIATOR that the present physical path is going to be broken (the TARGET will disconnect by releasing BSY), but that a later reconnect will be required in order to complete the current operation.

IDENTIFY (FF to 30)

This message can be sent by either the INITIATOR or TARGET. It is used to establish the physical path connection between an INITIATOR and TARGET for a particular LUN.

- Bit - 7 This bit is always set to distinguish this message from the others.
- Bit - 6 This bit is only set by the INITIATOR. When it is set, it indicates that the INITIATOR has the ability to accommodate disconnection and reconnection.
- Bits - 5, 4 & 3 Reserved.
- Bits - 2, 1 & 0 These bits specify a LUN address in a TARGET.

2.7.2 Message Protocol

All systems are required to implement the COMMAND COMPLETE message. A functional system can be constructed without using any of the other messages if some alternate means is provided for specifying the LUN (e.g., some bits in the command).

SASI DEVICES indicate their ability to accommodate more than the COMMAND COMPLETE message by using the ATN signal. The INITIATOR indicates this by creating the ATTENTION condition before it releases BSY when going through the SELECTION phase. The TARGET indicates its ability to accommodate more messages by responding to the ATTENTION condition with the MESSAGE OUT phase after going through the SELECTION phase.

The first message sent by the INITIATOR after the SELECTION phase is the IDENTIFY message. This allows the establishment of the physical path for a particular LUN specified by the INITIATOR. After RESELECTION, the TARGET's first message is also IDENTIFY. This allows the physical path to be established for the TARGET's specified LUN.

Whenever a physical path is established in an INITIATOR that can accommodate disconnection and reconnections, the INITIATOR must assure that the present state of the physical path is equal to the saved copy for that particular LUN.

2.8 TIMING

Unless otherwise indicated, the delay time measurements for each SASI DEVICE are calculated from signal conditions existing at that device's own SASI BUS PORT. Thus, normally these measurements need not consider delays in the bus cable.

- **ARBITRATION DELAY** (1.7 us)
The minimum time a SASI DEVICE must wait from asserting BSY for arbitration until the data bus can be examined to see if arbitration has been won. There is no maximum time.
- **BUS CLEAR DELAY** (350 ns)
The maximum time that a SASI DEVICE can take to stop driving all bus signals after:
 - (1) The release of BSY when going to the BUS FREE phase.
 - (2) Another SASI DEVICE asserts SEL during the ARBITRATION phase.
- **BUS FREE DELAY** (100 ns)
The minimum time that a SASI DEVICE must wait from its detection of the BUS FREE phase until its assertion of BSY when going to the ARBITRATION phase.
- **BUS SETTLE DELAY** (450 ns)
- **DESKEW DELAY** (45 ns)
- **REQ RESPONSE TIMEOUT** (system dependent, not specified here)
The maximum time that a TARGET must wait from its assertion of REQ until timing out because there is no ACK from the INITIATOR.
- **RESELECT RESPONSE TIMEOUT** (system dependent, not specified here)

-19-

The maximum time that a TARGET must wait for a BSY response from an INITIATOR before timing out during a RESELECTION phase.

• **RESET HOLD TIME** (25 us)

The minimum time for which RST is asserted. ~~RST is asserted~~. There is no maximum time specified.

• **SELECTION RESPONSE TIMEOUT** (system dependent, not specified here)

The maximum time that an INITIATOR must wait for a BSY response from a TARGET before timing out during a SELECTION phase.

2.9 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

SASI devices are daisy-chained together using a common cable. Both ends of the cable are terminated. All signals are common between all SASI devices. Two driver/receiver options are available:

- Single-ended drivers and receivers, which allow a maximum cable length of six meters (primarily for in-cabinet interconnection).
- Differential drivers and receivers, which allow a maximum cable length of fifteen meters (primarily for interconnection outside of a cabinet).

2.9.1 Cable Requirements (Single-Ended Option)

A fifty (50) conductor flat cable (or twisted pair flat cable) shall be used. The maximum cable length shall be 6.0 meters.

Each SASI BUS PORT shall have a 0.1 meter maximum stub length of any conductor when measured from the bus cable connector.

Bus termination may be internal to the SASI BUS DEVICES that are at the ends of the bus cable.

The cable pin assignment is shown in Figure 2.4.

Connector Requirements:

The connector shall be a fifty (50) conductor flat cable connector which consists of two rows of 25 pins on 100 mil centers. The 3M "Scotchflex" #3425-3000 cable connector will satisfy this requirement.

-20-

2.9.2 Cable Requirements (Differential Option)

A fifty conductor flat cable or twisted pair cable shall be used. The maximum cable length shall be 15 meters.

Each BUS PORT shall have a 0.2 meter maximum stub length of any conductor when measured from the bus cable connector.

Bus termination may be internal to the BUS DEVICES that are at the ends of the bus cable.

The cable-pin assignment is shown in Figure 2.5.

Connector Requirements:

The connector shall be a fifty (50) conductor flat cable connector or equivalent for round cable. The connector shall consist of two rows of 25 pins on 100 mil centers.

SIGNAL	PIN NUMBER
-DB(0)	2
-DB(1)	4
-DB(2)	6
-DB(3)	8
-DB(4)	10
-DB(5)	12
-DB(6)	14
-DB(7)	16
-DB(P)	18
---	20
---	22
---	24
---	26
---	28
---	30
-ATN	32
-SPARE	34
-BSY	36
-ACK	38
-RST	40
-MSG	42
-SEL	44
-C/D	46
-REQ	48
-I/O	50

Note: All signals are low true. All odd pins are connected to ground.

Figure 2.4 PIN ASSIGNMENTS (Single-Ended Option)

-21-

-22-

SIGNAL	PIN NUMBER	SIGNAL
*SHIELD GROUND	1 2	GROUND
+DB(0)	3 4	-DB(0)
+DB(1)	5 6	-DB(1)
+DB(2)	7 8	-DB(2)
+DB(3)	9 10	-DB(3)
+DB(4)	11 12	-DB(4)
+DB(5)	13 14	-DB(5)
+DB(6)	15 16	-DB(6)
+DB(7)	17 18	-DB(7)
+DB(P)	19 20	-DB(P)
	21 22	
	23 24	
	25 26	
	27 28	
+ATN	29 30	-ATN
+SPARE	31 32	-SPARE (Terminate as signal)
+BSY	33 34	-BSY
+ACK	35 36	-ACK
+RST	37 38	-RST
+MSG	39 40	-MSG
+SEL	41 42	-SEL
+C/D	43 44	-C/D
+REQ	45 46	-REQ
+I/O	47 48	-I/O
GROUND	49 50	GROUND

*Optional shield ground on some cables.

Figure 2.3 PIN ASSIGNMENTS (Differential Option)

2.10 ELECTRICAL DESCRIPTION

Note: For these measurements, bus termination is assumed to be external to the SASI DEVICE. A typical SASI DEVICE would have the provision for allowing optional internal termination.

2.10.1 Single-Ended Option

All signals are low true.

All assigned signals are terminated with 220 ohms to +5 volts (nominal) and 330 ohms to ground at each end of the cable.

All signals use open collector or three-state drivers as noted in Section 2.6.

Each signal driven by a SASI DEVICE shall have the following output characteristics when measured at the device's SASI BUS PORT connection:

$$\text{True} = \text{Signal Assertion} = 0.0 \text{ VDC to } 0.5 \text{ VDC @ } 48 \text{ ma (max)}$$

$$\text{False} = \text{Signal Non-assertion} = 2.5 \text{ VDC to } 5.25 \text{ VDC}$$

The open collector driver 7438 will satisfy this requirement.

Each signal received by a SASI DEVICE shall have the following input characteristics when measured at the device's SASI BUS PORT connection:

$$\text{True} = \text{Signal Assertion} = 0.0 \text{ VDC to } 0.8 \text{ VDC @ } 0.8 \text{ ma (max)}$$

$$\text{False} = \text{Signal Non-assertion} = 2.0 \text{ VDC to } 5.25 \text{ VDC}$$

The 74LS14 receiver with hysteresis will satisfy this requirement.

2.10.2 Differential Option

All bus signals consist of two lines denoted SIGNAL (+) AND SIGNAL (-). A signal is ASSERTED when SIGNAL (+) is more positive than SIGNAL (-), while a signal is NON-ASSERTED when SIGNAL (-) is more positive than SIGNAL (+). All assigned signals are terminated at each end of the cable as shown in Figure 2.3.

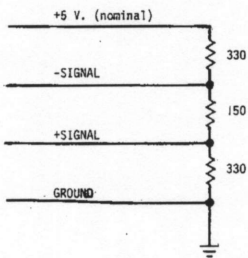
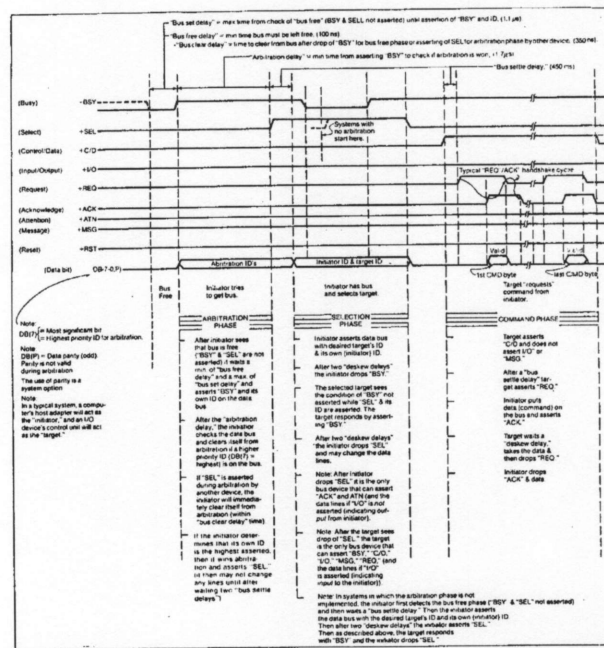


Figure 2.3 TERMINATION FOR DIFFERENTIAL OPTION

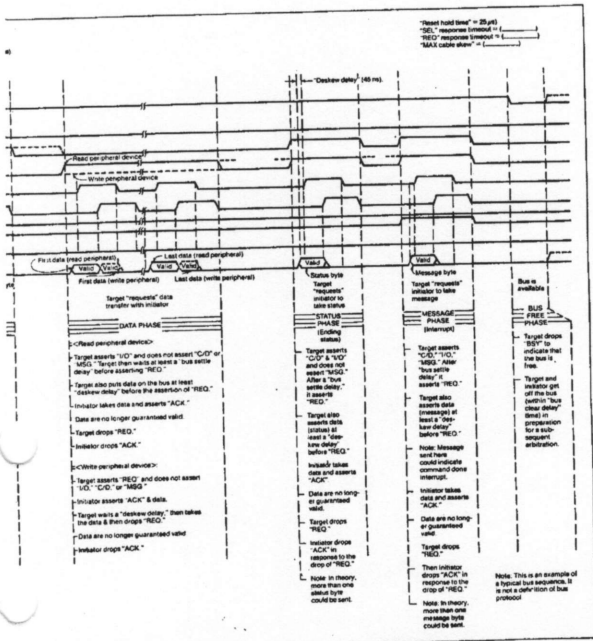
The recommended driver/receiver is SN75176 or equivalent. See EIA's standard proposal #SP1488.

TITLE SHUGART ASSOCIATES SYSTEM INTERFACE

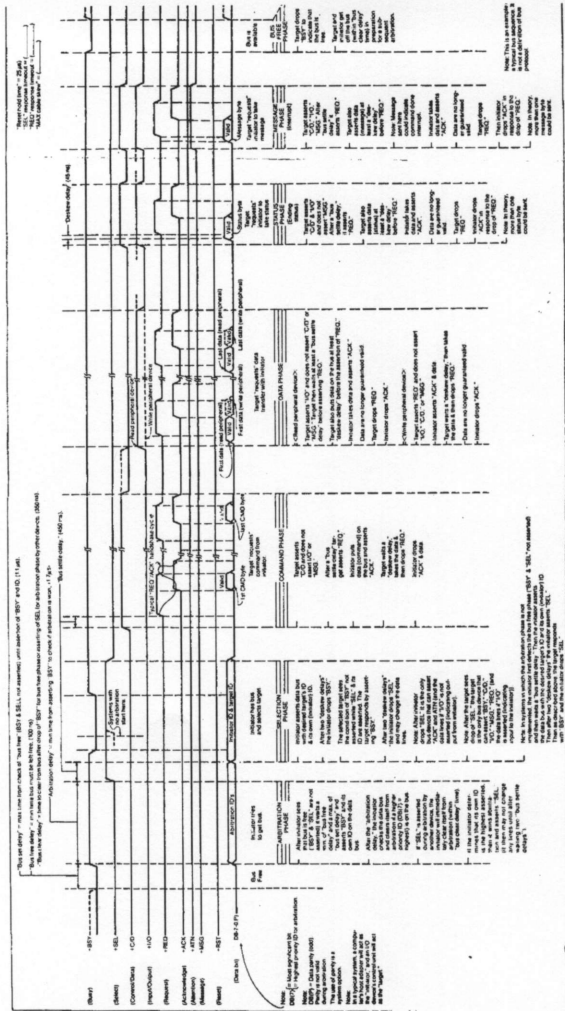


SASI TIMING

ING CHART



Appendix - A. Timing Sequence Example (Command without Disconnect/Reselect)



Appendix - A. Timing Sequence Example (Command without Disconnect/Reselect)

SASI TIMING CHART

PART B

FUNCTIONAL SPECIFICATION

1.0 SCOPE

This is the logical definition of the Shugart Associates System Interface, which includes the software command set, as well as specific status information related to the various commands. The document defines the logical structure of the I/O subsystem, the functions available from the I/O subsystem, and how to request these functions.

By defining a fixed block structure using a simple logical address scheme, the I/O interface can support device independence. In addition, by including the address as a component of the command structure, physical requirements such as SEEK can be imbedded within the basic READ and WRITE requests.

Although the interface has been kept quite simple, it has been designed to provide high performance in a multiple host multi-task environment. Powerful functions have been included to enhance random access applications. Multiple block transfers may be accomplished with a simple command.

By keeping to a minimum the functions essential to communicate via this protocol, a wide range of devices of varying capability can operate in the same environment. The objective of low cost may be satisfied without precluding that of high performance.

1.1 SASI FUNCTIONAL CONTROL PHILOSOPHY

This subsection describes the process of obtaining commands and storing results. Command execution itself (the actual implementation of a command) is SASI bus device specific and is therefore not discussed. Because many subsets of the full architecture may be implemented, optional functions will be noted.

1.1.1 Single Command

A typical operation on the SASI interface is likely to include a single READ to the I/O subsystem. This operation will be described in detail starting with a request from the system to the INITIATOR path control logic.

The INITIATOR path control logic has an active state and a set of stored states representing active disconnected devices (INITIATOR path control logic without disconnect capability does not require stored states). Upon receipt of an "Establish Path" request from the system, the INITIATOR path control logic sets up the active state for the operation, arbitrates for the bus, and selects the LUN. Once this process is completed, the TARGET function control logic (a functional component of the LUN) assumes control of the operation.

The TARGET obtains the command from the INITIATOR (in this case a READ command) via the "Get Data" request to the TARGET path control logic. The TARGET then reads the data from the peripheral device and sends it to the INITIATOR using the "Send Data" function of the TARGET path control logic. At the completion of the READ command, the

TARGET stores the command's completion status in the INITIATOR using the "Send Status" path control function. To end the operation, and to acknowledge completion, the TARGET path control logic is given the "End Path" function.

1.1.2 Disconnect

In the above READ example, the length of time necessary to obtain the data may have been considerable (e.g., requiring a time-consuming physical seek). In order to improve system throughput, the TARGET may disconnect from the INITIATOR, freeing the bus to allow other requests to be sent to other LUNs. To do this, the INITIATOR path control logic must be reselectable and capable of restoring the device state upon reconnection. The TARGET path control logic must be capable of arbitrating for the data bus and reselecting the INITIATOR.

After the TARGET has received the READ command (and determined that there will be a delay), it will request, via path control logic, that the INITIATOR save the present state; this state differs from the state when the TARGET was initially selected because the command has already been transferred. The TARGET then requests that the TARGET path control logic break the path (i.e., disconnect).

When data is ready to be transferred, the TARGET will request that path control logic reconnect the INITIATOR. As a result of this reconnection, the INITIATOR path control logic will restore the "saved" state (last saved by the reconnecting LUN); the TARGET will continue (as in the single command example) to finish the operation. At "Path End," the INITIATOR path control logic recognizes that the operation is complete. In addition to signalling this to the functional component in the system, it frees the location that had been used to save the state for that LUN.

On those occasions when a TARGET could disconnect without first saving the latest state (as might occur if an error was detected while transferring data to the INITIATOR), the operation may be repeated by either restoring the previous state or by disconnecting without saving the present state. When reconnection is completed, the previous state will be restored.

1.1.3 Link

The "Link" function defines a relationship between commands which allows previous operations to modify subsequent commands. "Link" makes high performance I/O functions possible by providing a relative addressing capability and allowing multiple command execution without invoking the functional component of the INITIATOR and without requiring reselection.

If the desired data address (in the previously described READ example) is unknown, but a search key defined as some particular bytes of the field is known, then by linking the READ to a SEARCH EQUAL command this data can be quickly and effectively transferred to the INITIATOR.

One additional function must be completed prior to requesting the next command. This function, "End of Link," is sent from the TARGET to the INITIATOR to acknowledge command completion. The INITIATOR then updates the stored state so that subsequent requests from the TARGET will reference the next command of the chain. Other than the "End of Link" function and the address modification of linked commands, command processing of linked and single commands is identical.

2.0 COMMAND AND STATUS STRUCTURE

2.0.1 Command Description Block (CDB)

An I/O request to a device is performed by passing a Command Description Block (CDB) to the target. The first byte of the CDB is the command class and operation code. The remaining bytes specify the Logical Unit Numbers (LUN), block starting address, control byte, and the number of blocks to transfer.

Commands are categorized into eight classes as follows:

Class 0 - 6-Byte commands including CONTROL, DATA TRANSFER and STATUS commands.

Class 1 - 10-Byte DUAL ADDRESS commands.

Class 2 - 8-Byte EXTENDED ADDRESS commands.

Class 3 - Undefined.

Class 4 - Undefined.

Class 5 - Undefined.

Class 6 - CONTROLLER SPECIFIC commands.

Class 7 - CONTROLLER SPECIFIC DIAGNOSTIC commands.

Figure 2.0 shows the command descriptor block formats.

Note: The reserved or RESERV used within this document indicates that either the code or bit has been previously used and may be undefined or that it is reserved for future use and should be set to zero but not checked.

Class 0 Commands
6 Byte Commands

BYTE	BIT 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
00	Class Code			Opcode				
01	Logical Unit Number			MSB Logical Block Address				
02	Logical Block Address							
03	LSB Logical Block Address							
04	Number of Blocks							
05*	Reserv	Reserv	Spare	Spare	Spare	Spare	Int Req	Link

* Control Byte

Format Command

BYTE	BIT 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
00	Class Code			Opcode				
01	Logical Unit Number			Data				
02	Reserved							
03	Interleave							
04	Interleave							
05*	Reserv	Reserv	Spare	Spare	Spare	Spare	Int Req	Link

* Control Byte

Figure 2.0 COMMAND DESCRIPTOR BLOCK FORMATS

Move to Control Command Description

Class 1 Commands
10 Byte Commands (Dual Address)

BYTE	BIT 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
00	Class Code			Opcode				
01	Logical Unit Number			MSB Logical Block Address				
02	Logical Block Address							
03	LSB Logical Block Address							
04	Number of Blocks							
05	Dest. Logical Unit Number			Dest. MSB Logical Block Address				
06	Dest. Logical Block Address							
07	Dest. LSB Logical Block Address							
08	Reserved						Dest. Device Address	
09*	Reserv	Reserv	Spare	Spare	Spare	Spare	Int Req	Link

*Control Byte

Class 2 Commands
8 Byte Commands (Extended Block Address)

BYTE	BIT 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
00	Class Code			Opcode				
01	Logical Unit Number			Reserved				
02	Logical Unit Number			MSB Logical Block Address				
03	Logical Block Address							
04	Logical Block Address							
05	LSB Logical Block Address							
06	Number of Blocks							
07*	Reserv	Reserv	Spare	Spare	Spare	Spare	Int Req	Link

*Control Byte

Figure 2.0 COMMAND DESCRIPTOR BLOCK FORMATS (continued)

2.0.1 Class Code

The class code can be 0 to 7.

2.0.2 Operation Code

The operation code for each class allows 32 commands (0 to 31).

2.0.3 Logical Unit Number

The LOGICAL UNIT NUMBERS designate the source unit for all classes, and the destination unit for DUAL ADDRESS COMMANDS.

Logical unit number allows 8 devices per TARGET (0 to 7). This method of device addressing is designed for low-end systems that do not implement separate paths for command and address functions. It is not recommended for more sophisticated implementation.

2.0.4 Logical Block Address

Six and ten byte commands contain 21 bit starting clobk addresses. EXTENDED ADDRESS COMMANDS contain 32 bit starting block addresses.

The concept of "block" implies that the INITIATOR and TARGET have previously agreed to the number of bytes of data to be transferred.

2.0.5 Number of Blocks

The number of blocks the command is to transfer allows 1 to 256 blocks (1 to 255, and 0 = 256 blocks).

2.0.6 Control Byte (Last byte in all commands)

Bit 7-6 Are reserved.

Bit 5-2 Not used.

Bit 1 = 1 This bit is only meaningful when Bit 0 is set and means status is requested for this command in a group of linked commands. Ending status must be sent if the link bit is not on, or if the TARGET encounters an abnormal condition.

Bit 0 = 1 The use of this bit is optional and means an automatic link to the next command upon completion of the current command for this INITIATOR. Status may be sent for each command executed.

-30-

2.1 COMMAND DESCRIPTIONS (CLASS 00)

Note: Commands marked standard (S) must be implemented in order to meet the minimum requirement of this specification. Commands marked optional (O) if used must be implemented as defined in this specification.

Command operation codes in hex and names are listed in a table associated with each section (i.e. Section 2.1, Table 2.1). Command codes in these tables marked RESERVED are in use by some controllers currently on the market.

TEST UNIT READY (00) (Optional) Returns zero status if requested unit is powered on and ready. This is not a request for unit self test. A fast response is expected.

REZERO UNIT (01) (Optional) Sets the unit to a specific known state. (Example: Rewind - Recalibrate)

REQUEST SENSE (03) (Standard) Returns unit sense. The sense data will be valid for the check condition (status) just presented to the INITIATOR. This sense data must be preserved for the INITIATOR. Sense data will be cleared on the reception of any subsequent command to the unit in error from the INITIATOR receiving the check condition. (See Section 2.10 for sense data format.) The number-of-blocks-byte in this command will specify the number of bytes that the host has allocated for returned SENSE. (0 = 4 bytes, and 1 - 255 = 1 - 255 bytes)

Note: The "No. of blocks byte" in the command will determine the length, in bytes, to be returned to the host.
0 = 4 bytes
1 - 255 = as indicated

FORMAT UNIT (04) (Standard) Formats the entire media. Bit 6 of Byte 1 indicates that the following data is available. (See Figure 2.0 for command format.)

Format Data:
2 Bytes - Block Size
1 Byte - Reserved
2 Bytes - Length of defect list (number of bytes)
X Bytes - Defect List (x bytes each defect)

-31-

The block size in the defect list is identified using the existing block size for previously formatted units. For units that are unformatted, the block size is specified in the first two bytes of format data.

READ (08) (Optional) Transfers to the INITIATOR the specified number of blocks starting at the specified logical starting block address. Multiple block reads will not pass an end of file mark. See the SEARCH commands for explanation of linked modification of this command.

WRITE (0A) (Optional) Transfers to the TARGET the specified number of blocks starting at the specified logical starting block address. See the SEARCH commands for explanation of linked modification of this command.

SEEK (0B) (Optional) Requests that the unit ready itself to transfer data from the specified address in a minimum time.

WRITE FILE MARK (0F) (Optional) Write a FILE MARK on REQUESTED UNIT.

RESERVE UNIT (12) (Optional) Reserves this unit for use by the requesting INITIATOR until a RELEASE UNIT COMMAND is received.

RELEASE UNIT (13) (Optional) Releases this unit from the requesting INITIATOR. This INITIATOR must have issued the previous reserve unit command.

WRITE AND VERIFY (14) (Optional) Writes and verifies the data for the specified number of blocks. See the SEARCH commands for explanation of linked modification of this command.

VERIFY (15) (Optional) Verifies the data for the specified number of blocks. No data is transferred with this command. See the SEARCH command for linked modification of this command.

READ CAPACITY (16) (Standard) If the number-of-blocks-byte is zero, the command will return the address of the last block on the unit. If the the number-of-blocks-byte is one, this command will return the address of the last block after the specified address to the point at which a substantial delay in data transfer will be encountered (i.e., a cylinder boundary).

-32-

Read Capacity Data:
4 Bytes - Block Address
2 Bytes - Block Size

SEARCH DATA EQUAL (18) (Optional) This command specifies a block address and a number of blocks to search. The data transferred to the target defines the area of the block to search and includes the search argument. If a command is linked to the search command and the search is successful, then the next command is fetched and executed. In this case, the address portion of the command is used as a displacement from the address at which the SEARCH was satisfied. If the search was not satisfied, the link is broken and end status is presented. If the address of a block that has satisfied the SEARCH is desired to be known, a SENSE command must be issued.

The SEARCH function contains the concept of sub-fields within a data block, to allow multiple areas within a block to be searched as logical blocks. Any search satisfied within this addressable block will reference the entire block for the purpose of linked commands. A SENSE, however, will indicate the number of the sub-field within the block which satisfied the SEARCH.

Format of the search argument:

Byte 0-1 Length of sub-field.
Byte 2-3 Sub-field displacement of field to compare.
Byte 4-5 Length of following search argument.

2 byte displacement of field to compare (within sub-field)
Repeated n times 2 byte length of field to compare (m) (within sub-field)
m byte data to compare

SEARCH DATA HIGH (17) (Optional) This command performs the same function as the Search Data Equal command, but is satisfied by a compare of high or equal. A write command may not be linked to this command.

SEARCH DATA LOW (19) (Optional) This command performs the same function as the Search Data Equal command, but is satisfied by a compare of low or equal. A Write command may not be linked to this command.

-33-

READ DIAGNOSTIC (1A) (Optional) Sends analysis data to INITIATOR after completion of a WRITE DIAGNOSTIC command. May be required to be linked to WRITE DIAGNOSTIC.

WRITE DIAGNOSTIC (1B) (Optional) Sends data to the target to specify diagnostic tests for target and peripheral units.

INQUIRY (1F) (Standard) This command sends to the INITIATOR information regarding unit and target parameters.

INQUIRY Data:
 1 Byte Code 0 - Direct access device
 1 - Sequential access device
 2 - Output only device
 1 Byte - Length of additional bytes
 X Bytes - Additional unit parameters

Class 00 Commands

OP CODE	
00	O TEST UNIT READY
01	O REZERO UNIT
02	RESERVED
03	S REQUEST SENSE
04	S FORMAT UNIT
05	RESERVED
06	RESERVED
07	RESERVED
08	O READ
09	RESERVED
0A	O WRITE
0B	O SEEK
0C	RESERVED
0D	RESERVED
0E	RESERVED
0F	O WRITE FILE MARK

Figure 2.1 COMMAND CODES

Class 00 Commands

OP CODE	
10	
11	
12	O RESERVE UNIT
13	O RELEASE UNIT
14	
15	
16	S READ CAPACITY
17	
18	
19	
1A	O READ DIAGNOSTIC
1B	O WRITE DIAGNOSTIC
1C	
1D	
1E	
1F	S INQUIRY

Figure 2.1 COMMAND CODES (continued)

2.2 COMMAND DESCRIPTIONS (Class 01)

SET BLOCK LIMITS (08) (Optional)

This command defines the addresses outside of which any following linked commands may not operate. A second set block limits command may not be linked to a chain of commands in which a set block limits command has already been issued. The two low order bits of the block address define the legal operations within the limits of the specified addresses. Bit 0 indicates write inhibit, and Bit 1 indicates read inhibit.

Class 01 Commands

OP CODE	
00	RESERVED
01	RESERVED
02	RESERVED
03	
04	
05	
06	
07	
08	O SET BLOCK LIMITS
09	
0A	
0B	
0C	
0D	
0E	
0F	

Figure 2.2 COMMAND CODES

Class 01 Commands

OP CODE	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
1A	
1B	
1C	
1D	
1E	
1F	

Figure 2.2 COMMAND CODES (continued)

2.3 COMMAND DESCRIPTIONS (Class 02)

READ (08)
(Standard) Transfers to the **INITIATOR** the specified number of blocks starting at the specified logical starting block address. Multiple block reads will not pass an end of file mark. See the search commands for explanation of linked modification of this command.

WRITE (0A)
(Standard) Transfers to the **TARGET** the specified number of blocks starting at the specified logical starting block address. See the search commands for explanation of linked modification of this command.

Class 02 Commands

OP CODE	
00	
01	
02	
03	
04	
05	
06	
07	
08	S EXTENDED ADDRESS READ
09	
0A	S EXTENDED ADDRESS WRITE
0B	
0C	
0D	
0E	
0F	

Figure 2.3 COMMAND CODES

Class 02 Commands

OP CODE	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	O WRITE AND VERIFY
15	O VERIFY
16	
17	O SEARCH DATA HIGH
18	O SEARCH DATA EQUAL
19	O SEARCH DATA LOW
1A	
1B	
1C	
1D	
1E	
1F	

Figure 2.3 COMMAND CODES (continued)

2.4 COMMAND DESCRIPTIONS (Class 03)

No commands currently defined for this class.

2.5 COMMAND DESCRIPTIONS (Class 04)

No commands currently defined for this class.

2.6 COMMAND DESCRIPTIONS (Class 05)

No commands currently defined for this class.

2.7 COMMAND DESCRIPTIONS (Class 06)

Commands in this class are controller specific commands. The commands in this group will be described only in controller specifications.

2.8 COMMAND DESCRIPTIONS (Class 07)

Commands in this class are CONTROLLER specific diagnostic commands. The commands in this group will be described only in CONTROLLER specifications.

2.9 COMPLETION STATUS BYTE (Byte 0)

Status must always be stored at the end of a command or set of linked commands. Intermediate status may be stored at the completion of linked command. Any abnormal conditions encountered during command execution will cause command termination and ending status.

- Bit 0 Reserved. Currently used in some targets for bus parity error.
- Bit 1 Check condition. Sense is available. (See Section 2.1 for sense command)
- Bit 2 Equal. Will be set when search equals satisfied.
- Bit 3 Busy. Device is busy or reserved. Busy status will be stored whenever a target is unable to accept a command from an INITIATOR. The most common instance of this condition arises when an INITIATOR that does not allow reconnection requests an operation from a reserved or busy device.
- Bit 4 Intermediate status stored. This bit is set and status is stored as a result of a request made via the interrupt request bit in the command control byte. This bit will not be set regardless of the interrupt request bit in any ending status.
- Bit 5-6 Reserved. Some current controllers place LUN here.
- Bit 7 Extended status. This bit set means that the second status byte is valid.

Byte 01

- Bit 0 Host adapter detected error. Reserved for the host adapter to flag the host for errors not detected by the TARGET.

BYTE	BIT 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
00	Ext Stat	Reserved		Int Sta	Busy	Equal	Check	Reserv
01	Ext Stat							H.A. Err

2.10 SENSE BYTES

BYTE	BIT 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
00	Ad Valid	Error Class		Error Code (See Figure B2.4)				
01	Reserved			MSB Logical Block Address				
02	Logical Block Address							
03	LSB Logical Block Address							

2.10.1 EXTENDED SENSE BYTES

BYTE	BIT 7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
00	Ad Valid	Class 07		Code 00				
01	Reserved							
02	File Mk	Reserved		Sense Key				
03	MSB Logical Block Address							
04	Logical Block Address							
05	Logical Block Address							
06	LSB Logical Block Address							
07	Additional Sense Length							
08 - NN	Additional Predefined Sense Bytes							

The Sense Key is a device independent code designed to aid the system in quickly resolving the following Sense Data.

- SENSE KEYS -**
- 00 = No Sense
 - 01 = Recoverable Error
 - 02 = Not Ready
 - 03 = Media Error (Non Recoverable)
 - 04 = Hardware Error (Non Recoverable)
 - 05 = Illegal Request
 - 06 = Media Change (Must be reported to all INITIATORS)
 - 07 = Write Protect
 - 08 = Diagnostic Unique
 - 09 = Vendor Unique
 - 0A = Power Up Failed
 - 0B = Aborted Command

ERROR CODES IN SENSE BYTE

Class 00 Errors
Drive Errors

ERROR CODE

00	NO STATUS
01	NO INDEX SIGNAL
02	NO SEEK COMPLETE
03	WRITE FAULT
04	DRIVE NOT READY
05	DRIVE NOT SELECTED
06	NO TRACK 0
07	MULTIPLE DRIVES SELECTED
08	DRIVE WRITE PROTECTED
09	MEDIA NOT LOADED
0A	INSUFFICIENT CAPACITY
0B	
0C	
0D	
0E	
0F	

Figure 2.4 ERROR CODES

ERROR CODES IN SENSE BYTE

Class 01 Errors
Target Errors

ERROR CODE	
00	I.D. CRC ERROR
01	UNCORRECTABLE DATA ERROR
02	I.D. ADDRESS MARK NOT FOUND
03	DATA ADDRESS MARK NOT FOUND
04	RECORD NOT FOUND
05	SEEK ERROR
06	DMA TIMEOUT ERROR
07	WRITE PROTECTED
08	CORRECTABLE DATA CHECK
09	BAD BLOCK FOUND
0A	INTERLEAVE ERROR
0B	DATA TRANSFER INCOMPLETE
0C	INTERFACE TIMEOUT ERROR
0D	SELF TEST FAILED
0E	
0F	

Figure 2.4 ERROR CODES (continued)

ERROR CODES IN SENSE BYTE

Class 02 Errors
System Related Errors

ERROR CODE	
00	INVALID COMMAND
01	ILLEGAL BLOCK ADDRESS
02	ABORTED
03	
04	
05	
06	
07	
08	
09	
0A	
0B	
0C	
0D	
0E	
0F	

Figure 2.4 ERROR CODES (continued)

ERROR CODES IN SENSE BYTE

Class 07 Errors
Extended Sense

ERROR CODE	
00	EXTENDED STATUS
01	
02	
03	
04	
05	
06	
07	
08	
09	
0A	
0B	
0C	
0D	
0E	
0F	VENDOR UNIQUE SENSE

Figure 2.4 ERROR CODES (continued)

Adaptec ACB-4000 MFM-SCSI protocol converter boards

I dont know if anyone would be looking at using these things anymore, but to save my info from dissapearing into the great big black hole of time I have written what I could still find down here.

These boards are MFM controllers that interface to a SCSI bus. Each board supports up to two MFM hard-drives. Unfortunately they are not completely normal SCSI hard-disks. They do not support the IDENTIFY command. This is probably due to the fact that back then the "auto-config"ness of SCSI wasnt such a high selling point as it is now. Also, they need you to send them a vendor specific format command before they will work (fair enough, just like normal MFM hard-drives, they need a low-level format). Also, this format command stores the drive geometry somewhere so that the controller board does not need to be told each time it is turned on.

When I got my first one of these boards, I didnt even have a SCSI controller. Not long afer that, I got four more for a song at a local swap meet on the assumption that they just HAD to be usefull for some project. Sure enough, I almost got my hands on ~8 112Meg MFM hard-drives. Imagine my glee at the thought of almost a whole Gigabyte of hard-disk space (things have changed since then)

I still cant work out where I got my information from,.. but I do have the program that I wrote which I have reverse engineered to get the following vendor specific command information:

```
MODE_SELECT Command for setting device paramaters
cmd[0] = MODE_SELECT
cmd[1] = (lun & 7) <<5;
cmd[2] = cmd[3] = 0;
cmd[4] = 0x18;                /* length of data block */

buf[0] = 0;                  /* reserved */
buf[1] = 0;                  /* medium type */
buf[2] = 0;                  /* reserved */
buf[3] = 0x08;              /* block descriptor length */
buf[4] = 0;                  /* density code */
buf[5] = 0;                  /* no. blocks MSB */
```



```

buf[6] = 0;          /* "" */
buf[7] = 0;          /* "" LSB */
buf[8] = 0;          /* reserved */
buf[9] = (blksize >> 16) & 0xff; /* block length MSB */
buf[10] = (blksize >> 8) & 0xff; /* "" */
buf[11] = blksize & 0xff; /* "" LSB */
/* vendor unique stuff */
buf[12] = 0x01;      /* list format code 1= soft ;
buf[13] = (cyls >> 8) & 0xff; /* high byte for cylinde
buf[14] = cyls & 0xff; /* low "" */
buf[15] = heads & 0xff; /* data head count */
buf[16] = (rwc >> 8) & 0xff; /* high byte RWC cylinder */
buf[17] = rwc & 0xff; /* low "" */
buf[18] = (wpc >> 8) & 0xff; /* high byte WPC cylinder */
buf[19] = wpc & 0xff; /* low "" */
buf[20] = lzone & 0xff; /* landing zone, 0=defa
buf[21] = stime & 0xff; /* 0=non-buffered seek,
buf[22] = 0; /* for hard sectorred */
buf[23] = 0; /* "" */

```

FORMAT_UNIT command (standard SCSI command)

```

cmd[0] = FORMAT_UNIT;
cmd[1] = (lun & 7) <<5;
cmd[2] = 0;
cmd[3] = (tmp >> 8) & 0xff; /* Interleave */
cmd[4] = tmp & 0xff; /* " */
cmd[5] = 0;

```

I had some email conversation with a nice person with a manual, and he was able to tell me what all the switches did:

```

From spoetnix.idca.tds.philips.nl!wilko Thu Feb 17 14:28:4
Return-Path:
Received: by peril.zot.apana.org.au (Linux Smail3.1.28.1 #
id m0pWzPv-0002UEC; Thu, 17 Feb 94 14:28 AEST
Received: from yarrina.connect.com.au ([192.189.54.17]) by
Received: from sun4nl.NL.net by yarrina.connect.com.au wit
(5.67b8/IDA-1.5 for ); Thu, 17 Feb 1994 05:05:31 +1100
Received: from philapd by sun4nl.NL.net via EUnet
id AA06438 (5.65b/CWI-3.3); Wed, 16 Feb 1994 19:05:2
Received: from apdnm.idca.tds.philips.nl by philapd.idca.t
id AA10286 (879.1.1.13/2.18); Wed, 16 Feb 94 18:
X-Organisation: Digital Equipment Enterprise bv, P.O. Box
NL-7300 AE Apeldoorn, The Netherlands

```

Received: from spoetnix.idca.tds.philips.nl by apdnm.idca.
id AA10452 (879.1.1.13/2.18); Wed, 16 Feb 94 17:
Received: by spoetnix.idca.tds.philips.nl (5.65/25-eef)
id AA00766; Wed, 16 Feb 94 18:59:01 +0100
From: Wilko Bulte
Message-Id: <9402161759.AA00766@spoetnix.idca.tds.philips.
Subject: Re: Adaptec ACB4000 protocol boards.
To: hamish@zot.apana.org.au (Hamish Coleman)
Date: Wed, 16 Feb 1994 18:58:59 +0100 (CET)
In-Reply-To: from "Hamish Coleman" at Feb 16, 94 01:41:55
Return-Receipt-To: wilko@idca.tds.philips.nl
X-Mailer: ELM [version 2.4 PL23]
Content-Type: text
Content-Length: 1865
Status: RO

> Firstly, the controller doesnt seem to support the SCSI i
> making it hard to auto-detect - do you know of any 'appr
> this drive? (I currently assume that any time an inquir
> an acb4000, or other block-device is attached)

It doesnt support inquiry. So you are stuck with just 'as
Maybe you could try to do a TEST UNIT READY command?

> There are also two sets of jumpers on the board: one se
> cables that is labeled 'PU' 'R' 'S' 'T' and has four pi
> this is for?

R<->PU ---> write precomp off for both drives
R<->S ---> write precomp starts at same cyl as reduced wr
R<->T ----> write precomp applied on all tracks, on both d

Jumper in is 'feature selected'

> Then the block of eight pairs of jumpers labeled A-P, -
> through E-F are the SCSI address settings, but what are

G<->H ---> DMA transfer rate, jumper in= SYSCLOCK/4, out=
I<->J ---> Extended command set with jumper in
K<->L ---> not used
M<->N ---> support for drives that drop seek complete duri
O<->P ---> self diagnostics

> And finally, for non-termination of the SCSI bus, do I r
> marked RP4 and RP3 that are near the SCSI connector?

Correct.

Cheers,

Wilko

```
| / o / / _ Wilko Bulte mail: wilko@id
|/|/ / / /( ( ) |d|i|g|i|t|a|l| Equipment Corporation
voice: +3155-432062 PO Box 245 - 7300 AE Apeldoorn
fax: +3155-439133 Easynet: HLDE01::BULTE_W DJ
```

From spoetnix.idca.tds.philips.nl!wilko Fri Feb 18 16:52:0
Return-Path:

Received: by peril.zot.apana.org.au (Linux Smail3.1.28.1 #
id m0pX08C-0002UYC; Fri, 18 Feb 94 16:52 AEST

Received: from yarrina.connect.com.au ([192.189.54.17]) by

Received: from sun4nl.NL.net by yarrina.connect.com.au wit
(5.67b8/IDA-1.5 for); Fri, 18 Feb 1994 05:18:27 +1100

Received: from philapd by sun4nl.NL.net via EUnet
id AA24762 (5.65b/CWI-3.3); Thu, 17 Feb 1994 19:17:5

Received: from apdnm.idca.tds.philips.nl by philapd.idca.t
id AA27170 (879.1.1.13/2.18); Thu, 17 Feb 94 19:

X-Organisation: Digital Equipment Enterprise bv, P.O. Box
NL-7300 AE Apeldoorn, The Netherlands

Received: from spoetnix.idca.tds.philips.nl by apdnm.idca.
id AA16036 (879.1.1.13/2.18); Thu, 17 Feb 94 18:

Received: by spoetnix.idca.tds.philips.nl (5.65/25-eef)
id AA13008; Thu, 17 Feb 94 19:15:45 +0100

From: Wilko Bulte

Message-Id: <9402171815.AA13008@spoetnix.idca.tds.philips.

Subject: Re: Adaptec ACB4000 protocol boards.

To: hamish@zot.apana.org.au (Hamish Coleman)

Date: Thu, 17 Feb 1994 19:15:43 +0100 (CET)

In-Reply-To: from "Hamish Coleman" at Feb 17, 94 11:06:07

Return-Receipt-To: wilko@idca.tds.philips.nl

X-Mailer: ELM [version 2.4 PL23]

Content-Type: text

Content-Length: 941

Status: RO

>

> > I<->J ---> Extended command set with jumper in

>

> Hmm - just one further question,. what is 'extended com

> it (hoping that it might have meant the I got 'extended

> see no visible difference.

>

The manual is rather vague on this. It seems to be usable the ACB4000 to replace a Xebec 1410 or Western Digital con without driver changes. I don't think it is usable for you Further detail I could not find

Wilko

```
| / o / / _ Wilko Bulte mail: wilko@id
| / / / / ( _ ) | d | i | g | i | t | a | l | Equipment Corporation
voice: +3155-432062 PO Box 245 - 7300 AE Apeldoorn
fax: +3155-439133 Easynet: HLDE01::BULTE_W DJ
```

[Back to the hacks page](#)