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The "Calcu-Letter" column of Popular Science (July, 1981) reported that the Hewlett-Packard calculator club had calculated the value of r to 1,000 decimal places in less then

115 hours and had challenged the Texas Instruments Personal Calculator Club to try and beat their time. This got my interest on the subject of calculating the value of 7 on my TI-59. I had never considered trying to calculate the value

by Bob Fruit

the past. The one I liked was;

LOTS OF TT

of m, particularly to 1,000 places. I started by writing to both the TI club (to join it) and the H-P club (to get a copy of the article on their calculating the value of m). Not waiting for the replies I went about figuring out how I would tackle this problem. That effort led to program I. It is shown here because it makes it easier to follow the programming techniques and algorithms developed here, but also used in my later programs. (There are many improvements that are obviously needed in program I, but I do not want to dwell on them here. Remember it is just to help you see what's going on in the later program.)

When considering doing a problem like 77 you must determine

culating the value of 7? I looked in Petr Beckman's book

how to do two things: First, what algorithm to use for cal-

A History of 7 (this book is much more entertaining than the

title might imply) to see what algorithms had been used in

 $\pi = 16 * \arctan(1/5) - 4 * \arctan(1/239).$ This turned out to be the same algorithm the H-P people used.

The arctan function has a nice numerical method;

 $\arctan(x) = x - x^3/3 + x^5/5 - x^7/7 + \dots$

ision looked like a formidable challenge. It turns out that

The second thing needed is, how to do the multi-precision arithmatic. The multi-precision addition and subtraction is not to hard to figure out, but the multi-precision div-

a multi-precision numerator divided by a single precision

denominator (the situation faced in this problem) is easy. Look at each block of digits of the multi-precision numerator as a stand alone single precision number. Carry out the normal division between two numbers, save the dividend (this is part of the multi-precision answer), and add the remainder onto the front of the next block of digits. Repeat the division process untill the entire multi-precision division is complete. This is just the way long division is taught in grade school, it just looks a little different.

Since the largest remainder could be 238 not more then 10

digits can be stored in each register or you would exceed the 13 digit accuracy of the TI-59 (and there are some

and prints the results.

is not part of the calculation of 7%.

24 hours longer than the H-P effort.

gorithms.

-2-

put program II-C into the card reader. To print additional

What happens while the program is running? Program II-A sets

copies of the answer use INV LIST. The last digit is too

the calculator in fast mode and calculates the value of

16 * arctan(1/5). Program II-B calculates the value of

large by 4 (the last 3 digits should be 799).

obvious printing advantages too). This means that I will only get 460 decimal places in my calculation of 7. I would need 207 registers to be able to get 1,000 decimal places.

As best I can determine (I can not really read H-P program code) the H-P people used 205 registers in their effort on 7. Since the H-P calculator has more user memory they will be able to calculate more decimal places using similar al-

loose the n the next page you ained in July 1961 but to 100,265 places. an Mathematical Soci he whole "war." The procedure for running programs II are: Load all the programs on to magnetic cards (the calculator configurations are II-A 479.59, II-B 159.99, II-C 159.99). Make sure that registers 90-99 are all zero when saving program II-B. Read in program II-A and press A. Read in program II-A. Put proe you will find 1961 by Shanks a laces. This tabl gram II-B in the card reader (it will be read when the calculator is ready for it). After program II-B has been read

whole herd. Let's show the "feven we lost (temporarily) the "ar." n intended) Bob has risen to I hope that this first "sheep" rd. Let's show the "friends" f from Mathematics find a table of PI conks and Wrench on an table was reprinted 4 * arctan(1/239)) and subtracts it from the value found in the first program. Program II-C takes the value of m and performs all the carry/borrow 1 operations that were ignored during the addition/subtractions in the first two programs Programs II will calculate the value of π to 460 decimal places (with the error noted before) in 6 hours 18 minutes 15 seconds. For program II-A the running time is 4:14:51. Program II-B's running time is 2:03:24. I do not count the couple of minutes of program II-C running time since that I computed to the first 1 an IBM 7090. At that tim ted with permission of the of Computation, 1962, vl4n Now for the diappointing part. It is easy to project the running time if 1,000 decimal places could be calculated on a TI-59. There is a linear relationship between the number of decimal places and the running time of the prorams, so

Time will not permit me to get back into this problem now. If I do come back to this problem I will look at incororating the algabric contraction the H-P people developed for SASE with my request.

the formulas. I don't know if that would significantly improve the run times I have already gotten. I would like to thank Rich Nelson, editor for the H-P newsletter, for sending me a copy of their article 7. I had sent him a

1000 / 460 * (6:18:15) = 13:46. This puts my approach

