Description

Technical Field

This invention relates generally to electronic data processors and scientific calculators and more particularly to methods and apparatuses in such processors and calculators for providing improved algebraic expression manipulation capabilities.

Background Art

Scientific calculators are typically hand held or desk-top devices which include a manually actuable keyboard for receiving input data and operational commands from the operator and a visual display for communicating results to the operator. A more recent development is the provision of an alphanumeric display which allows for the entry, display, and editing of data structures which are more complicated than simple numbers. In particular, it allows for entry, display, and editing of equations and algebraic expressions.

The increasing complexity of these scientific calculators together with the trend toward providing more diverse data structures has provided impetus for automating the editing process for these data structures. Previous calculators have employed so called character editors for editing equations and algebraic expressions, wherein the operator may delete, insert, or overwrite individual characters or groups of characters in the displayed form of the equation or expression.

While character editors are useful and important for the correction of operator inputting errors, they are highly deficient for the purpose of rearranging a formally correct expression which appears in an inappropriate form. As an example, consider the expressions:

$$(\text{alog}(2N)+1)-\text{alog}(2N) \text{ and } (\text{alog}(2N)-\text{alog}(2N))+1$$

where alog is the common antilogarithm function, and N is the number of significant digits carried by the calculator. While these expressions are formally equivalent, they will yield different results when evaluated on the calculator, and only the second form will yield the correct result. A primary deficiency of a character editor, then, is that it will not allow the operator to transform the first expression into the second expression without considerable effort and the possibility of introducing errors into the expression.

A second deficiency of character editors for this kind of editing is the lack of guidance for the operator in the processes of transforming an expression into a formally equivalent one.

Mayer-Lindenberg, F.: "An Interactive Programming Environment for Personal Microsystems Supporting Distributed Processing", Microprocessing and Microprogramming, Vol. 13, April 1984, pages 255-256, discloses an interactive programming environment for personal microsystems supporting distributed processing in the scientific and engineering area which uses a stack editor which is easy to handle and is organized according to the LIFO principle. The programming language FIFTH is used which is suited for postfix notation of mathematical expressions.

Brown, P.J.: "Writing interactive compilers and interpreters", John Wiley & Sons, 1984, pages 46-49, 171-177 and 212-223, describes the principles of interactive compilers and interpreters which can be implemented on data processors. To better communicate with the user special extra modules called "re-creators" are implemented for displaying programs and expressions held in an internal form in the memory to the user in a human readable form (cf. chapter 2.5 and chapter 6.2, pages 212-223). Such "re-creators" can be built up by replacing the keyword by a suitable numeric code. Furthermore a source-program can be re-created that has the identical meaning to the original but not necessarily the same syntax (cf. chapter 2.5, page 48). For execution of mathematical expressions the Reverse Polish notation is well known as is the storage of mathematical expressions in this notation. A stack is used for storing the elements and processing them (cf. chapter 5.2, page 171-177).

Disclosure of the Invention

The present invention provides a data processor for performing mathematical operations upon a mathematical expression concordant with the syntax of the mathematical expression, comprising:

(a) a processing device;

(b) a memory;

(c) menu objects, mathematical function objects (Ln, +) and number objects (1,2.3) stored in said memory;

(d) individual interface elements;

(e) object advancing means including a data pointer stack in memory between individual interface elements and individual object locations in said memory, each pointer addressing a respective object in memory, sequential operation of selected interface elements selecting corresponding pointers on said data pointer stack and hence menu objects, mathematical function objects and number objects in the sequence of operation of said interface elements, thereby forming a mathematical expression object [Ln-(2.3 + 1)] recorded in said memory;

(f) said menu objects comprising individual mathematical menu objects which are related, respectively, to differing mathematical expressions, each mathematical menu object comprising individual recorded menu items respectively defining mathematical operations to be performed on a mathematical expression concordant with the syntax of that mathematical expression;

(g) mathematical menu object selection means between memory whereat mathematical expression objects are recorded and memory whereat mathematical menu objects are stored, a mathematical expression object when recorded in memory addressing a specific mathematical menu object stored in memory;

(h) a display device;

(i) object display means between said interface elements and said display device, providing a display on said display device in human readable form of selected and addressed individual mathematical function objects and number objects in the sequence of selection and addressing and of the resulting mathematical expression object recorded in memory by such selection and addressing, together with a display of the addressed mathematical menu object including the menu items thereof, and

(j) menu item addressing and selection means between said interface elements and said memory accessed by operation of an interface element, to initiate the performance of mathematical operations by said processing device upon a mathematical expression recorded in memory in accordance with the mathematical operations of a menu item selected from the display of menu items by operation of an interface element.

Brief Description of Drawings

Figure 1 illustrates a calculator, having two keyboards and a display, which represents a presently preferred embodiment of this invention.

Figure 2 illustrates the internal chip-level architecture of the calculator of Fig. 1, which inheres presently implemented best mode of practicing the invention.

Figure 3 is a map illustrating the utilization of the random access memories of Figure 2.

Figure 4 illustrates the essential structural aspects of the read only memories of Figure 2.

Figure 5 illustrates the structure of the menu area of the read only memories of Figure 2.

Figure 6 illustrates the structure of a menu in a menu area of memory in particular reference to menu items.

Figure 7 illustrates the memory structure of a menu item which includes a menu indicator.

Figure 8 illustrates the memory structure of a menu indicator.

Figure 9 illustrates the memory structure corresponding to an algebraic type of operator, as employed in this invention.

Figure 10 illustrates the essential structural aspects of the random access memories of Figure 2, including a data pointer stack.

Figures 11a and 11b illustrate examples of the state of the data pointer stacks during a specific editing operation of the expression LN (2.3 + 1.0), employing reverse polish notation.

Figures 11c through 11q illustrate the display seen by the user in the step by step entering and editing operation of the indicated expression.

Figures 12a, 12b and 12c together illustrate a flow chart of the operations involved in the automated and error free editing of algebraic expressions in the improved calculator.

Figure 13 is a flow chart illustrating the data processing commands of menu items which execute the transformations of subexpressions.

Figure 14 is a flow chart which illustrates the operation of a menu item called Cursor Right in a subexpression-selection menu described herein.

Figure 15 is a flow chart which illustrates the operation of a menu item called Cursor Right in a subexpression-selection menu described herein.

Best Modes for Carrying Out the Invention

In Figure 1, a calculating device 100 is shown having a first section 101 and a second section 102. First section 101 includes a plurality of keys, which include keys for entering alphanumeric symbols.

Second section 102 includes a display 103. In the preferred embodiment, display 103 is a liquid crystal, dot array display which displays four lines of twenty-three characters each. Display 103 also includes a line 106 of annunciators, which are used to indicate various calculator modes of operation.

Second section 102 also includes a plurality of keys, including number keys and function keys as labeled. An ENTER key 105 is used to terminate alphanumeric character entry and to begin processing of the entry. During the operation of the present invention pressing this key signals a request to return to the subexpression-selection menu (Fig. 12b). A shift key 106 acts to cause the next key pressed to execute its alternate definition, as labeled above that key.

Second section 102 also includes a row of six multi-function keys 104, which may have associated with them a function or the value of a variable. The current definition of a multi-function key is indicated by a menu label displayed directly above the key, in the bottommost character row of the display 103.

First and second section 101 and 102 contain various keys that assign groups (menus) of associated calculator functions, in subgroups of 6 to the multi-function keys 104. Included is a USER menu key 108, that assigns user variables automatically to the multi-function keys 104. A NEXT key 109 causes the multi-function key assignments to advance to the next group of six functions in the current menu. During the operation of the present invention, pressing this key signals a request to advance the menu to the next menu appropriate to the selected subexpression of the edited expression. The shifted function of this key 109 reactivates the previous six functions. During the operation of the present invention, pressing the shift key followed by the key 109 signals a request to change the menu to the previous menu appropriate to the selected subexpression of the edited expression. As each menu is selected the menu label therefore is displayed.

Second section 102 also contains an infrared light-emitting diode 110, which is used for transmitting data to a corresponding receiver, typically a printing device.

The ON key 111 is a special interrupt key that allows the user to turn the calculator on or off, and to interrupt normal calculator operation when the calculator is on. During the operation of the present invention, pressing this key signals a request to exit from the editing session.

Figure 2 shows the internal chip-level architecture of calculating device 100. A central processing unit (CPU) 201, two read-only memories (ROM) 203 and 204, and two combination display driver and random-access memories 205 and 206, are shown coupled to a main bus 204. Each display driver controls half, 207 and 208, respectively, of the liquid crystal display 103. A keyboard 202 is shown coupled to the central processing unit 201. Keyboard 202 may include two sections of keys 101 and 102, Fig. 1, but may also represent alternate forms of entry of data such as a touch-sensitive screen.

Figure 3 is a map of the utilization of the random access memories 205 and 206 by the operating system contained in the read only memories 203 and 204 to support the user. interface of this invention. The fundamentals of this operating system are described in EP-A-248 287 filed: May 30, 1986, for a Data Processing System and Method for the Direct and Indirect Execution of Uniformly Structured Object Types, and assigned to the assignee of this invention.

In the referenced system, uniformly structured objects are indifferently mixed in object memory with object pointers. The objects address prologues of object execution sequences in memory. The object pointers address other objects. The objects are properly evaluated whether directly or indirectly addressed. A pointer selectively points to or addresses objects or object pointers.

When an object is directly addressed by the pointer, the addressee of the object's addressee in memory is addressed which initiates the object execution sequence.

When an object is indirectly addressed, the pointer addresses an object pointer. The object pointer addresses an object. The object's addressee in memory is addressed which initiates the object execution process.

More particularly, the object execution process employed in this invention, provides for correct and automatic evaluation of both objects and object pointers which are indifferently included in the execution sequence. The objects are provided with a uniform structure so that all objects can be indifferently executed, either directly or indirectly. Objects of different types are still uniformly structured. Each comprises at least a prologue address and a body. These two parts are contiguous in memory. The prologue address addresses a prologue in memory which describes execution of the object. The body is data. An object is pointed to, or addressed, if its prologue address part is pointed to or addressed.

The object may be a single object or a composite object. If its body is a sequence of objects and/or object pointers it is a composite object.

In the direct execution of an object, a pointer, called an interpreter pointer, points to the prologue address of an object. This prologue address addresses a prologue of object execution in memory which directly identifies an object to execute. In indirect execution of an object, the interpreter pointer points to an object pointer which in turn points to or addresses the prologue address of an object which is the object to execute. Since the object pointer does not address a prologue in memory, there is no direct identification of an object to execute. The prologue address addresses a prologue of object execution in memory.

Thus in providing uniformity of structure among the objects, in which each comprises a prologue address and a body, in the provision of prologues of object execution in memory and in the use of object pointers and interpreter pointers in which interpreter pointers and object pointers may selectively identify objects by pointing to their prologue address parts and, additionally, in which an interpreter pointer may point to an object pointer, a simple technique is provided, permitting intermixing of objects and object pointers for direct or indirect object execution with a minimum of processing steps. This reduces programming and conserves memory which significantly reduces processing overhead.

Calculator operation centers around evaluation of objects on the display stack. An object can be data, a name or a procedure. To evaluate an object means to perform the action associated with that object. Data objects do nothing special (they are first data), name objects refer to other objects, and procedure objects process the objects and the commands in their definitions.

The term object, as used here and in the referenced patent application represents any of the multiplicity of data types supported by the operating system, including mathematical data and expressions, programs, etc. Objects may exist in the read only memories 203 and 204, the temporary object area 302, or the user variable area 310.

A reserve system memory area 301 contains memory addresses that identify the remaining memory regions 302 -310, plus other permanently allocated system data.

A temporary object memory area 302 contains nameless objects, created during calculator use.

A return stack memory area 303 is a last in first out stack of addresses that constitute pointers to object. sequences representing pending calculator operations. This stack grows towards the end (higher addresses) of memory.

A free memory 304 is the region of memory currently unused.

A data pointer stack memory 305 is a last in first out stack of addresses that constitute pointers to objects. The user interface of the present invention displays a human-readable form of the objects pointed to by the stack pointers, rather than the pointers themselves. The data pointer stack 305 grows into free memory towards the start (lower addresses) of memory.

A command line memory area 306 is a dynamically allocated memory used to accumulate user-entered commands and data in the form of text characters.

A temporary environment memory area 307 is a dynamically allocated linked-list of objects used primarily for storage of intermediate results and parameter passage.

A loop indices memory area 308 is used to save start and stop indices for looping program constructs.

A key map memory area 309 defines the current functions associated with each keyboard key.

A user variable memory area 310 contains named objects (variables) created explicitly by the user.

Figure 4 illustrates the relevant structure of the read only memories 203 and 204 in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. In particular it illustrates the presence of an algebraic operator memory area (402) in which the memory structures corresponding to algebraic operators in the system are stored, a menu area (403) in which the memory structures representing displayed menus are stored, and a constants area (404) in which memory structures corresponding to commonly occurring data constants are stored.

Figure 5 illustrates the structure of the menu area of the read only memories 203 and 204 in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. In particular, the menu area comprises a contiguous sequence of menu data structures, beginning at a fixed known address. Additional information on the structures of menu data structures is illustrated in Figures 6, 7, and 8.

Figure 6 illustrates the memory structure corresponding to a menu in accordance with the current invention. In particular, a menu begins with a prologue address/type constant (601) which serves the dual purpose of providing the address of executable code which initiates the execution of the menu structure and also serves to define the type of the data structure it heads. Following the prologue address/type constant is the first menu item or the address of the first menu item (602), other menu items or addresses of menu items (603), and the last menu item or address of a menu item (604). Following the last menu item is an end marker (605) which is paired with the prologue address / type constant and which delimits the end of

the menu.

Figure 7 illustrates the structure of a menu item in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. In particular, a menu item begins with a prologue address/type constant (701) which serves the dual purpose of providing the address of executable code which initiates the execution of the menu item and also serves to define the type of the data structure it heads. Following the prologue address/type constant is a fixed operator address (702) which operator shields the menu label or menu label address (703) from execution during the execution of the body of the menu item. The menu label which is displayed to the user comprises the indicators of the character data to indicate which menu options are currently active and available for execution. Following the menu label or menu label address is a sequence of data processing commands (704) which serve to define the operation of this menu item. Following the last data processing command is an end marker (705) which is paired with the prologue address/type constant and which delimits the end of the menu item.

Figure 8 illustrates the memory structure of a menu label in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. In particular a menu label begins with a prologue address/type constant (801) which serves the dual purpose of providing the address of executable code which initiates the execution of the menu label structure and also serves to define the type of the data structure it heads. Following the prologue address/type constant is a length indicator (802) which serves to determine the length of the menu label structure, and following this is the character data (803) which serves to define the characters to be displayed to the user when a menu item in which this menu label is referenced is active and available for execution.

Figure 9 illustrates the memory structure corresponding to an algebraic operator in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. In particular, an algebraic operator begins with a prologue address/type constant (901) which serves the dual purpose of providing the address of executable code which initiates the execution of the algebraic operation and also serves to define the type of the data structure it heads. Following the prologue address/type constant is the address (902) of one of a fixed number of operations which verify and serves to define the number of arguments this operator uses. Following this address is a sequence (903) of data processing commands which are specific to the algebraic operator and serve to define its operation. Finally, there is an end marker (904) which is paired with the prologue address/type constant and which delimits the end of the algebraic operator.

Figure 10 illustrates the relevant structure of either of the random access memories 205 and 206 in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. In particular, there is at a fixed location (1002) the current address of the start of the temporary environment area (1007) (as illustrated by the arrow (1009)) wherein addresses of temporarily needed data objects may be stored. At a second fixed location is the address (1003) of the data pointer stack (1006) (as illustrated by arrow (1008)) comprising an implicitly linked list of addresses of objects which are the implicit argument for data processing operations. At a third fixed location (1004) is contained the representation of the ordinal number of the menu within the menu area defined to be the current menu. The temporary object area (1005) contains objects created by data processing operations and may be referenced by addresses on the data pointer stack or within the temporary environment area.

Figures 11a and 11b illustrate examples of the state of the data pointer stack during the operation of the preferred embodiment of the present invention. In these examples, the user is editing the expression:

LN(2.3 + 1.0)

where LN represents the (natural log) base-e logarithm function.

The expression LN (2.3 + 1.0) is defined as an algebraic object, as is the subexpression (2.3 + 1.0). An algebraic object is a procedure that is entered and displayed in mathematical form. It can contain numbers, variable names, functions, and operators, defined as follows:

Number: A real number or complex number.

Variable name: Any name, whether or not there is currently a variable associated with the name. When such a name is evaluated, it returns itself.

Function: A command that is allowed in an algebraic procedure. Functions must return exactly one result. If one or more of a function's arguments are algebraic objects, the result is algebraic. Most functions appear as a function name followed by one or more arguments contained within parentheses; for example, LN(X).

Operator: A function that generally doesn't require parentheses around its arguments. These include prefix operators whose names appear before their arguments, for example, uniary negation and infix operators whose names appear between their two arguments, for example, +.

Procedure: A procedure obeys algebraic syntax if, when evaluated, it takes no arguments from the stack and returns exactly one argument to the stack, and if it can be subdivided completely into a hierarchy of subexpressions. A subexpression can be a number, a name, or a function and its arguments. By hierarchy, it is meant that each subexpression can itself be an argument of a function. For example, consider the expression:

LN(2.3 + 1.0)

The expression contains two numbers, (2.3 and 1.0) each of which can be considered as a simple subexpression. The expression also contains two functions, +, and LN, each of which defines a subexpression along with its arguments. The arguments of + are 2.3 and 1.0; 2.3 + 1.0 is the argument of LN. The hierarchy becomes more obvious if the expression with its operators is rewritten as ordinary functions (Polish notation).

LN(+ (2.3,1.0))

An object or subexpression within an expression is characterized by its position and level.

The position of an object is determined by counting from left to right in the expression. For example, the expression LN(2.3 + 1.0), LN has position 1, and + has position 2.

The position of a subexpression is the position of the object that defines the subexpression. In the same example, LN(2.3 + 1.0) has position 1, since it is defined by LN in position 1.

The level of an object within an algebraic expression is the number of pairs of parentheses surrounding the object when the expression is written in purely functional form. for example, in the expression LN-(2.3 + 1.0), LN has level 0, + has level 1 and 2.3 and 1.0 have level 2. Every algebraic expression has exactly one level 0 object.

If the above expression is rewritten again, by removing the parentheses, and placing the functions after their arguments, the reverse polish notation form of the expression is obtained:

2.3,1.0 + LN

This defines a program that has algebraic syntax, and is effectively equivalent to the corresponding algebraic object.

In the expression LN(2.3 + 1.0), the subexpression 2.3 + 1.0 has been selected for further editing. The operational commands to enter the expression and to request the menu of manipulation operations concordant with the form of the selected subexpression are assumed to have been performed. These are described at a later point. Illustrated in Fig. 11a is the state of the data pointer stack under these conditions, wherein the top of the data pointer stack (1101) contains the address of the representation of the integer 4 which representation resides in the constants area of the read only memory 203 and 204. This first element on the data pointer stack represents the total number of elements, LN, 2.3, +, 1.0, of the expression being edited. Next in the stack is the address (1102) of the outermost operator, LN, of the expression, in this case the operator corresponds to the natural logarithm. It occupies the first address position of an operator in the data pointer stack in the random access memory, defined as integer 1. Beyond this is the address (1103) of the next-outermost operator, +, of the expression, in this case the operator is addition. It occupies the second address position of an operator in the data pointer stack in the random access memory, defined as integer 2. Note that the number of arguments for each operator can be computed from the address of the operator using the previously illustrated structure of algebraic operators. The arguments in this case are 2.3 and 1.0. Following the address of the addition operator are the arguments for the addition operator. In this case the left hand argument is represented by the address (1104) of the representation of the number 2.3, which, since it is not an especially common number, has been created in the temporary object area of a random access memory. The right hand argument of addition is represented by the address (1105) of the representation of the number 1.0, which, since it is a commonly used number, resides in the constants area of a read only memory.

In this situation, the temporary environment area contains, at a computable location, the address of the representation of the integer 2, which integer signifies the location within the data pointer stack of the address of a second operation which is the address of the outermost operator (+) of the selected subexpression (2.3 + 1.0), which then signifies the selected subexpression. In this case, the integer is 2 signifying the second operation address within the expression, that is, the address of the second operator, the addition operator (+).

Figure 11b illustrates the state of the data pointer stack following the user-selected operation of the commute operator, which in this case interchanged the two arguments, 2.3 and 1.0, of the addition operator with the result that the new left hand argument of the addition operator is represented by the address (1104) of the representation of the number 1.0, and the new right hand argument of the addition operator is represented by the address (1105) of the representation of the number 2.3. The resulting edited selected subexpression is thus 1.0 + 2.3 and the resulting edited expression is LN(1.0 + 2.3).

The specific steps for entering and editing the expression LN(2.3 + 1.0) in the calculator are described below, in reference to Figs. 11c through 11q.

1. Press [ON] key 111. The display is as seen in Figure 11c. The four lines of the display are numbered on the left of the screen in descending order from top to bottom. This is an immediate entry mode.
2. Press ['] key 112. The display is as seen in Figure 11d. In the immediate entry mode, this initiates or activates the algebraic entry mode. The algebraic cursor 14 is in the lower left corner (line 1) of the display screen. In this mode, pressing a command key executes the command. Pressing a function key adds the function name to the command line. If the function takes its arguments in parentheses, such as LN(2.3 + 1.0), the opening parentheses is also added.
3. Press the shift key 107 and the shifted LOGS key 113. The display is as seen in Figure 11e. The individual menu labels 15 are displayed in line 1. The algebraic cursor 14 is lifted to line 2 and lines 1 to 4 are shifted up, leaving numbered lines 1 and 2 visible.
4. Press LN. This is that menu key 104 immediately below label LN in the menu display. The display is as indicated in Figure 11f. The function LN with a bracket on its right is added in line 2 and the algebraic cursor 14 is shifted to the right.
5. The expression 2.3 + 1.0 is now added by actuating the correspondingly marked keys in sequence. The displays corresponding to these steps appear in Figures 11g, h and i. The menu labels remain unchanged.
6. Next press the shift key 107 and the shifted key 116. This adds the bracket, Figure 11j, to the end of the expression, which completes the quantity (2.3 + 1.0).
7. The ENTER key 105 is now actuated. This shifts the expression to the right side of the display, as seen in Figure 11k, and enters the expression at the bottom of the display stack. The cursor 14 disappears.
8. The shifted ALGEBRA key 117 is next actuated. This involves first actuating the shift key 107 and then actuating the shifted ALGEBRA key 117. This brings the algebraic operations to the menu allowing the editing operation of the expression to be edited to be selected. The menu labels of the selected menu are displayed. The menu label changes as seen in Figure 11l.
9. In Figure 11m, the display is shown prior to the time the multifunction key 104 is actuated. The operation selected for execution is FORM.
10. Figure 11n shows the display after execution of the operation FORM. The complete expression LN-(2.3 + 1.0) is displayed at the left of the screen with a new cursor 14 position over LN. This is the algebraic editor cursor (FORM cursor). The menu changes again, to one having 4 menu labels permitting manipulation of the cursor to a selected operator, in this case +.

FORM is an interactive expression editor which enables the rearrangement of an algebraic expression or equation according to standard rules of mathematics. All of FORM's mathematical operations are identities; that is, the result expression will have the same value as the original argument expression, even though the two may have different forms. For example, with FORM it is possible to rearrange 'A + B' to 'B + A', which changes the form but not the value of the expression.

When FORM is executed, the normal stack display is replaced by a special display of the algebraic object, along with a menu of FORM operations displayed in the labels at the bottom of the display. The special display initially starts in line two of the display (second from top), and wraps into line three if the object is too long to display in a single line. If the object requires more than two display lines, it is necessary to move the FORM cursor through the object to view the remainder.

To exit FORM and continue with other calculator operations, the ON key is pressed.

The FORM cursor highlights an individual object in the expression display. The highlighted object appears as a white character against a black background. The cursor identifies both the selected object, which is highlighted, and the selected subexpression, which is the subexpression consisting of the selected object and its arguments, if any.

The cursor can be moved to the left or right in the expression by pressing keys in the menu beneath the arrows <-- or -->; when the cursor moves, it moves directly from object to object, skipping any intervening parentheses. The cursor is always in line two of the display. If an attempt is made to move the cursor past the right end of line two, the expression scrolls up one line in the display, and the cursor

moves back to the left end of line two. Similarly, if an attempt is made to move the cursor past the left end of line two, the expression scrolls down one line, and the cursor moves to the right end of line two.

The expression display differs from the normal stack algebraic object display by inserting additional parentheses as necessary in order to make all operator precedence explicit. This feature helps to identify the selected subexpression associated with the selected object as shown by the cursor. This is important, since all FORM menu operations operate on the selected subexpression.

While FORM is active, a special set of operations is available as menu keys. The initial menu (subexpression selected menu) contains six operations common to all subexpressions. Additional menus of operations are available via the NEXT and PREV keys; the contents of the additional menus vary according to the selected subexpression. Only those operations that apply to the selected subexpression are shown.

The first six menu keys can be reactivated at any time by pressing ENTER.

11. The menu key beneath the arrow pointed to the right is now actuated twice. This steps the algebraic cursor 14 from LN to 2.3 to +. This final position is displayed in Figure 11o.

12. Key 109 marked NEXT, as seen in Figure 11p, is actuated to bring up a menu having a menu label permitting switching the numbers 2.3 and 1. Each actuation of the NEXT key 109 displays a different set of menu labels from different menus in a menu group until all have been displayed, at which time the menu display recycles. The menus in the group include only those concordant with mathematical operations which are permissible on the expression. The user selects the appropriate menu for the desired manipulation of the expression. The one displayed contains an indicator comprising oppositely pointed arrows in the second menu label position from the left.

13. As seen in Figure 11q, actuation of the menu key 104, directly beneath the double ended arrow menu label, switches or interchange the positions of the numbers.

Figures 12a, 12b, and 12c illustrate the flow chart of the operations involved in the automated and error-free editing of algebraic expressions in accordance with the present invention. The process of converting a user-entered algebraic expression to the Reverse Polish form in a calculator as shown in Fig.'s 11a and 11b is well known in the art of data processing and is not illustrated in this document. Reverse polish notation is discussed hereinabove, in the treatment of the expression LN (2.3 + 1.0).

The flow chart of Fig. 12a begins with entry block (1201), which is activated after the user has entered an algebraic expression, or otherwise caused an algebraic expression to be computed, and further the user has executed the operational sequence which causes the embodiment of the present invention to be activated, as discussed with respect to Figures 11a - 11q.

In the first processing block (1202) (Step 9 FORM), the selected-subexpression indicator or cursor is initialized to the left-most operator (LN) of the edited expression (as evident in Figure 11n).

In the next processing block (1203) the current-menu selector is initialized to select the subexpression-selection menu (as evident in Figure 11n).

In the next processing block (1204) the indicators of the current menu label and the edited expression with the selected subexpression indicated are displayed to the user. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the outermost operator (LN in Figure 11n, plus Figures 11a - 11q) of the selected subexpression is always displayed in the second line of the display, and is displayed in reverse-contrast with the remainder of the expression. Otherwise, as much of the expression is shown as will fit on the upper three lines of the display. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the menu label with its indicators is displayed in the lowest line of the display.

Processing block (1205) is a loop which is excited when the user invokes an operational command by input to the data processing device. In the preferred embodiment, this consists of pressing one of the multifunction keys 104 or the special keys 105, 107, 109, or 111, of Fig. 1 all of which are on the right front panel of the device.

In decision block (1206), a determination is made whether the user's input matches that defined to be a request to exit the editor (Key 111 of Figure 1). In the affirmative case, the program exits through exit block (1207). Otherwise it continues via connector (C2) to decision block (1208) of Fig. 12b.

In decision block (1208), a determination is made whether the user's input matches that of that defined to be a request to return to the subexpression-selection menu (Key 105 of Figure 1). In the affirmative case, the program proceeds to processing block (1209) wherein the current-menu selector is set to select the subexpression-selector menu. The program then proceeds via connector (C1) to processing block (1204) of Fig. 12a.

In the contrary case, the program proceeds to decision block (1210) wherein a determination is made whether the user's input matches that of that defined to be a request to change the current menu to the next appropriate menu (Key 109 of Figure 1). In the affirmative case, the program proceeds to process

block (1211). In the contrary case, the program proceeds to decision block (1212).

In process block (1211), the program determines the next appropriate menu from the current-menu and the form of the selected subexpression utilizing the next-menu-transition table, illustrated in Table T1, and sets the current-menu selector from this information. The program then proceeds via connector (C1) to processing block (1204) of Figure 12a.

In decision block (1212), a determination is made whether the user's input matches that of that defined to be a request to change the current menu to the previous appropriate menu (Key 107 followed by Key 109 both of Figure 1). In the affirmative case, the program proceeds to process block (1213). In the contrary case, the program proceeds via connector (C3) to processing block (1214) of Figure 12c.

In process block (1213), the program determines the previous appropriate menu from the current-menu and the form of the selected subexpression utilizing the previous-menu-transition table T2 below and sets the current-menu selector from this information. The program then proceeds via connector (C1) to processing block (1204) of Figure 12a.

In processing block (1214) of Figure 12c, the data processing commands of the menu item of the current menu, whose indicator is displayed, and which correspond to the user's input are executed (Key 104 of Figure 1). The program then proceeds via connector (C1) to processing block (1204) of Figure 12a.

Figure 13 illustrates the flowchart of the data processing commands of menu items used in the preferred embodiment of the present invention which carry out the transformations of subexpressions in a manner concordant with the rules of mathematics. Although this general form is applicable to each of the menu items which transform subexpressions, the details will vary depending on the exact transformation to be carried out. Entry to the processing sequence is through the starting block (1301) which is invoked from processing block 1214 of Figure 12c. In decision block (1302) a determination is made whether the structure of the selected subexpression matches the template for the particular operation embodied in this processing sequence. These templates are discussed further in the description of tables T3 -T12. In the case that the selected subexpression does not match the template, the process returns to the calling program via return (1304). In the case that the selected subexpression matches the template the program proceeds to process block (1303).

Process block (1303) carries out the transformation of the subexpression according to the nature of the operation. These transformations are more fully detailed in the description of Tables T3 - T12.

The program then proceeds to process block (1305) in which the selected-subexpression is made to correspond to the newly-transformed subexpression. The program then proceeds to process block (1306).

In process block (1306) the current-menu selector is set to correspond to the subexpression-selection menu and in process block (1307) the current-menu is reset to the next menu appropriate to the newly transformed subexpression which is now the selected subexpression.

After the completion of process block (1307) the program returns to the caller via return (1308).

The flowchart of Figure 14 illustrates the operation of the menu item Cursor Left in the subexpression-selection menu (Table T3). Entry to the processing sequence is through the starting block (1401) which is invoked from processing block (1214) of Figure 12c when the current menu is the subexpression-selection menu and the user provides input which signals a request to perform this operation. The process proceeds to decision block (1402) in which a determination is made whether the selected subexpression is the left-most subexpression of the edited expression. In the affirmative case, the process returns to the caller via return block (1403). In the contrary case, the process proceeds to process block (1404). In process block (1404), the next subexpression to the left of the selected subexpression is determined and the subexpression selection indicator is set to correspond with this subexpression. The process then returns to the caller via return block (1405).

The flowchart of Figure 15 illustrates the operation of the menu item Cursor Right in the subexpression-selection menu (Table T3). Entry to the processing sequence is through the starting block (1501) which is invoked from processing block (1214) of Figure 12c when the current menu is the subexpression-selection menu and the user provides input which signals a request to perform this operation. The process proceeds to decision block (1502) in which a determination is made whether the selected subexpression is the right-most subexpression of the edited expression. In the affirmative case, the process returns to the caller via return block (1503). In the contrary case, the process proceeds to process block (1504). In process block (1504) the next subexpression to the right of the selected subexpression is determined and the subexpression selection indicator is set to correspond with this subexpression. The process then returns to the caller via return block (1505).

Tables T1 and T2 below illustrate the next-menu-transition-table and the previous-menu-selection-table, respectively. They are used in process blocks (1211) and (1213) respectively. Each of the illustrated tables have a current-menu column (1) and a form of selected-subexpression row (2). Each entry in the current-

menu row corresponds to one of the possible current menus during the operation of the present invention. More information about these menus is contained in tables T3 - T13 and their descriptions, below.

Each entry in the form of selected-subexpression row gives schematic illustrations, in algebraic form, of a class of algebraic expressions. In each entry, the single letters A and B represent arbitrary expressions. The other entries are:

A + B	- the sum of two expressions
A-B	- the difference of two expressions
A*B	- the product of two expressions
A/B	- the quotient of two expressions
INV(A)	- the reciprocal of an expression
-(A)	- the negation of an expression
LOG(A)	- the base-10 logarithm of an expression
LN(A)	- the base-e logarithm of an expression
EXP(A)	- the base-e antilogarithm of an expression
ALOG(A)	- the base-10 antilogarithm of an expression
A ^ B	- an expression raised to an expression power
other	- any expression not in one of the above classes

In process block (1211) and (1213), a determination is made as to which of these classes the selected subexpression falls. This determination along with the current-menu is then used to determine the next or previous menu appropriate to the selected subexpression as indicated in the outcome area (3) of the tables. Those parts of the outcome area which are left blank correspond to transitions that do not occur in practice.

Tables T3 - T12 below illustrate additional detail about the the menus, menu item labels and menu item operations in accordance with the present invention. These are not meant to be an exhaustive description all the possibilities inherent in the present invention, but merely to illustrate a reasonable subset of such.

Each of tables T3 - T12 itemizes a menu, or portion thereof, and details an approximation to the characters displayed for the indicator of each menu item (Label column) as well as additional information about the operation of each menu item.

Table T3 details three of the menu items in the subexpression-selection menu: the Cursor Left item, the Cursor Right item, and the LEVEL item. The operation of the first two are illustrated in Figures 14 and 15 respectively.

The remaining tables T4 - T12 correspond to menus whose items transform the selected subexpression in accordance with standard mathematical rules. For each item of each menu detail on the label for that item (Label column), a common name for the transformation (Name column), a template to match (Form of Subexpression column) in order for the transformation to proceed (as per process block 1302), and the final form of the transformed subexpression (Form of Result column) are included.

In both the Form of Subexpression and Form of Result columns in addition to the conventions detailed for the description of Tables T1 and T2, above, the following conventions are adopted:

- The single letters C and D also represent arbitrary expressions.
- Single letters repeated in multiple locations in one or both columns represent identical subexpressions.

The written form of the expressions is algebraic as opposed to Reverse Polish form to enhance readability for this disclosure.

Procedures for creating processing sequences which determine whether a subexpression matches a template as detailed in the Form subexpression column are well known in the art and will not be further detailed here.

Procedures for creating processing sequences which transform a subexpression as detailed by the Form of Result column are well known in the art and will not be detailed here.

Table T1

FORM OF SELECTED-EXPRESSION

Current-Menu	A+B or A-B	A*B or A/B	INV(A) or -(A)
Subexpression Selection	1st-Sum	1st-Product	INV-NEG
Standard	Sub-Expression Selection	Sub-Expression Selection	Sub-Expression Selection
1st-Sum	2nd-Sum		
2nd-Sum	Standard		
1st-Product		2nd-Product	
2nd-Product		Standard	
INV-NEG			Standard
LOG			
EXP			
POWER			

NEXT-MENU-TRANSITION-TABLE

Table T1

FORM OF SELECTED-EXPRESSION

Current-Menu	LOG(A) or LN(A)	EXP(A) or ALOG(A)	A^B	Other
Subexpression Selection	Log	EXP	Power	Standard
Standard	Sub-Expression Selection	Sub-Expression Selection	Sub-Expression Selection	Sub-Expression Selection
1st-Sum				
2nd-Sum				
1st-Product				
2nd-Product				
INV-NEG				
LOG	Standard			
EXP		Standard		
POWER			Standard	

NEXT-MENU-TRANSITION-TABLE

Table T2

FORM OF SELECTED-SUBEXPRESSION

PREVIOUS-MENU-TRANSISTION-TABLE

Current-Menu	A+B or A-B	A*B or A/B	INV(A) or -(A)
Subexpression Selection	Standard	Standard	Standard
Standard	2nd-Sum	2nd-Product	INV-NEG
1st-Sum	Sub-Expression Selection		
2nd-Sum	1st-Sum		
1st-Product		Sub-Expression Selection	
2nd-Product		1st-Product	
INV-NEG			Sub-Expression Selection
LOG			
POWER			

Table T2

FORM OF SELECTED-EXPRESSION

Current-Menu	LOG(A) or LN(A)	EXP(A) or ALOG(A)	A^B	Other
Subexpression Selection	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Standard	LOG	EXP	Power	Sub-Expression Selection
1st-Sum				
2nd-Sum				
1st-Product				
2nd-Product				
INV-NEG				
LOG	Sub-Expression Selection			
EXP		Sub-Expression Selection		
POWER			Sub-Expression Selection	

PREVIOUS-MENU-TRANSISTION-TABLE

Table T3

SUBEXPRESSION SELECTION MENU

Label	Name	Operation
<-	Cursor Left	Select next subexpression to the left
->	Cursor Right	Select next subexpression to the right
LEVEL	LEVEL	Display argument level of selected subexpression

Table T4

STANDARD MENU

Label	Name	Form of Subexpression	Form of Result
DNEG	Double Negation	A	-(-(A))
DINV	Double Reciprocal	A	INV(INV(A))
*1	Multiply by 1	A	A*1
/1	Divide by 1	A	A/1
^1	Raise to the First Power	A	A^1
+1-1	Add and Subtract 1	A	(A+1)-1

Table T5

1st-SUM MENU

Label	Name	Form of Subexpression	Form of Result
-()	Write as Negation	A + B A - B	-(-A-B) -(-A+B)
<->	Commute	A + B A - B	B + A -B + A
<-M	Merge Left Factors or Operators	A * B + A * C LN (A) + LN (B) LOG (A) + LOG (B) A - B -A - B LOG(A)-LOG(B) LN(A)-LN(B)	A * (B + C) LN (A * B) LOG (A * B) - (-A + B) -(A + B) LOG (A / B) LN (A / B)
M->	Merge Right Factors	A * C + B * C A / C + B / C A * C - B * C A / C - B / C	(A + B) * C (A + B) / C (A - B) * C (A - B) / C
<-A	Associate Left	A + (B + C) A + (B - C) A - (B + C) A - (B - C)	(A + B) + C (A + B) - C (A - B) - C (A - B) + C
A->	Associate Right	(A + B) + C (A - B) + C (A + B) - C (A - B) - C	A + (B + C) A - (B - C) A + (B - C) A - (B + C)

Table T6

2nd-SUM MENU

Label	Name	Form of Subexpression	Form of Result
AF	Add Fractions	A / B + C / D A + B / C A / B + C A / B - C / D A - B / C A / B - C	(A*D + B*C) / (B*D) (A * C + B) / C (A + B * C) / B (A*D - B*C)/(B*D) (A * C - B) / C (A - B * C) / B

Table T7

1st-PRODUCT MENU

Label	Name	Form of Subexpression	Form of Result
1/()	Write as Inverse	A * B	INV(INV(A)/B)
		A / B	INV(INV(A)*B)
		INV(A) * B	INV(A / B)
		INV(A) / B	INV(A * B)
<->	Commute	A * B	B * A
		INV(A) * B	B / A
		A / B	INV(B) * A
<-D	Distribute Left	(A + B) * C	A * C + B * C
		(A - B) * C	A * C - B * C
		(A + B) / C	A / C + B / C
		(A - B) / C	A / C - B / C
D->	Distribute	A * (B + C)	A * B + A * C
		A * (B - C)	A * B - A * C
		A / (B+C)	INV(((INV(A)*B+(INV(A)*C))
		A / (B-C)	INV(((INV(A)*B-(INV(A)*C))
<-A	Associate Left	A * (B * C)	(A * B) * C
		A * (B / C)	(A * B) / C
		A / (B * C)	(A / B) / C
		A / (B / C)	(A / B) * C
A->	Associate Right	(A * B) * C	A * (B * C)
		(A / B) * C	A / (B / C)
		(A * B) / C	A * (B / C)
		(A / B) / C	A / (B * C)

Table T8

2nd-PRODUCT MENU

Label	Name	Form of Subexpression	Form of Result
-()	Write as Negation	-A * B A * B -A / B A / B	-(A * B) - (-A * B) -(A / B) - (-A / B)
L()	Write as Logarithm	LN (A) * B LOG (A) * B LN (A) / B LOG (A) / B	LN (A ^ B) LOG (A ^ B) LN (A ^ INV(B)) LOG (A ^ INV(B))
<-M	Merge Left Operands or Operators	A ^ B * A ^ C EXP (A) * EXP (B) ALOG(A) * ALOG(B) A ^ B / A ^ C ALOG(A) / ALOG(B) EXP (A) / EXP (B)	A ^ (B + C) EXP (A + B) ALOG (A + B) A ^ (B - C) ALOG (A - B) EXP (A -B)
M->	Merge Right Operands	A ^ C * B ^ C A ^ C / B ^ C	(A * B) ^ C (A / B) ^ C

Table T9

INV-NEG MENU

Label	Name	Form of Subexpression	Form of Result
->()	Distribute Over Expression	- (A + B) - (A - B) -(A * B) -(A / B) -LN (A) -LOG (A) INV((A ^ B)) INV(EXP (A)) INV(ALOG (A))	-A - B -A + B -A * B -A / B LN (INV(A)) LOG (INV(A)) A ^ -B EXP (-A) ALOG (-A)

Table T10

LOG MENU

Label	Name	Form of Subexpression	Form of Result
-()	Write as Negation	LN (INV(A)) LN (A) LOG (INV(A)) LOG (A)	-LN (A) -LN (INV(A)) -LOG (A) -LOG(INV(A))
L*	Write as Product	LN (A ^ B) LOG (A ^ B)	LN(A) * B LOG(A) * B
D->	Write as Sum	LN (A * B) LN (A / B) LOG (A * B)	LN (A) + LN (B) LN (A) - LN (B) LOG (A) + LOG (B)

Table T11

EXP MENU

Label	Name	Form of Subexpression	Form of Result
1/()	Write as Inverse	EXP (-A) EXP (A) ALOG (-A) ALOG (A)	INV(EXP (A)) INV(EXP (-A)) INV(ALOG (A)) INV(ALOG (-A))
E^	Write as Power of Exponential	EXP(A * B) EXP(A / B) ALOG(A * B) ALOG(A / B)	(EXP (A)) ^ B (EXP(A)) ^ INV(B) (ALOG (A)) ^ B) (ALOG (A))^INV(B)
D->	Distribute Over Sum	EXP (A + B) EXP (A - B) ALOG (A + B) ALOG (A - B)	EXP (A) * EXP (B) EXP (A) / EXP (B) ALOG (A)*ALOG(B) ALOG (A)/ALOG(B)

Table T12

POWER MENU

Label	Name	Form of Subexpression	Form of Result
1/()	Write as Inverse	A ^ B A ^ -B	INV((A ^ -B)) INV((A ^ B))
E^	Write as Exponential	(EXP (A)) ^ B (ALOG (A)) ^ B	EXP (A * B) ALGO (A * B)
<-D	Distribute Over Product	(A * B) ^ C (A / B) ^ C	A ^ C * B ^ C A ^ C / B ^ C
D->	Distribute Over Sum	A ^ (B + C) A ^ (B - C)	A ^ B * A ^ C A ^ B / A ^ C
<-A	Write as Power of Power	A ^ (B * C	(A ^ B) ^ C
A->	Write Exponent as Product	(A ^ B) ^ C	A ^ (B * C)

Industrial Applicability

This invention is applicable generally in data processing operations involving the manipulation and editing of expressions defining physical, economic, or other relationships.

Claims

1. A data processor for performing mathematical operations upon a mathematical expression concordant with the syntax of the mathematical expression, comprising:
   (a) a processing device (201);
   (b) a memory (203,204,RAM 1,RAM 2);
   (c) menu objects, mathematical function objects (Ln, +) and number objects (1,2.3) stored in said memory;
   (d) individual interface elements (104,105,107,etc.);
   (e) object advancing means including a data pointer stack (305) in memory between individual interface elements (202) and individual object locations in said memory, each pointer (1006) addressing a respective object in memory, sequential operation of selected interface elements selecting corresponding pointers on said data pointer stack and hence menu objects, mathematical function objects and number objects in the sequence of operation of said interface elements, thereby forming a mathematical expression object [Ln(2.3 + 1)] recorded in said memory;
   (f) said menu objects comprising individual mathematical menu objects which are related, respectively, to differing mathematical expressions, each mathematical menu object comprising individual recorded menu items (602-604) respectively defining mathematical operations (704) to be performed on a mathematical expression concordant with the syntax of that mathematical expression;
   (g) mathematical menu object selection means between memory (RAM 1, RAM 2) whereat mathematical expression objects are recorded and memory (203,204) whereat mathematical menu objects are stored, a mathematical expression object when recorded in memory addressing a specific mathematical menu object stored in memory;

Table T12

POWER MENU

Label	Name	Form of Subexpression	Form of Result
1/()	Write as Inverse	A ^ B A ^ -B	INV((A ^ -B)) INV((A ^ B))
E^	Write as Exponential	(EXP (A)) ^ B (ALOG (A)) ^ B	EXP (A * B) ALGO (A * B)
<-D	Distribute Over Product	(A * B) ^ C (A / B) ^ C	A ^ C * B ^ C A ^ C / B ^ C
D->	Distribute Over Sum	A ^ (B + C) A ^ (B - C)	A ^ B * A ^ C A ^ B / A ^ C
<-A	Write as Power of Power	A ^ (B * C	(A ^ B) ^ C
A->	Write Exponent as Product	(A ^ B) ^ C	A ^ (B * C)

Industrial Applicability

This invention is applicable generally in data processing operations involving the manipulation and editing of expressions defining physical, economic, or other relationships.

Claims

1. A data processor for performing mathematical operations upon a mathematical expression concordant with the syntax of the mathematical expression, comprising:
   (a) a processing device (201);
   (b) a memory (203,204,RAM 1,RAM 2);
   (c) menu objects, mathematical function objects (Ln, +) and number objects (1,2.3) stored in said memory;
   (d) individual interface elements (104,105,107,etc.);
   (e) object advancing means including a data pointer stack (305) in memory between individual interface elements (202) and individual object locations in said memory, each pointer (1006) addressing a respective object in memory, sequential operation of selected interface elements selecting corresponding pointers on said data pointer stack and hence menu objects, mathematical function objects and number objects in the sequence of operation of said interface elements, thereby forming a mathematical expression object [Ln(2.3 + 1)] recorded in said memory;
   (f) said menu objects comprising individual mathematical menu objects which are related, respectively, to differing mathematical expressions, each mathematical menu object comprising individual recorded menu items (602-604) respectively defining mathematical operations (704) to be performed on a mathematical expression concordant with the syntax of that mathematical expression;
   (g) mathematical menu object selection means between memory (RAM 1, RAM 2) whereat mathematical expression objects are recorded and memory (203,204) whereat mathematical menu objects are stored, a mathematical expression object when recorded in memory addressing a specific mathematical menu object stored in memory;

(h) a display device (207,208);
(i) object display means (200,201,205,206) between said interface elements (202) and said display device (207,208), providing a display on said display device in human readable form of selected and addressed individual mathematical function objects and number objects in the sequence of selection and addressing and of the resulting mathematical expression object recorded in memory by such selection and addressing, together with a display of the addressed mathematical menu object including the menu items thereof, and
(j) menu item addressing and selection means (200,201) between said interface elements and said memory (203,204) accessed by operation of an interface element, to initiate the performance of mathematical operations by said processing device upon a mathematical expression recorded in memory (RAM 1,RAM 2) in accordance with the mathematical operations of a menu item (602-604) selected from the display of menu items by operation of an interface element.

2. The data processor of claim 1, wherein said display means (205,206) cause each object addressed by a selected pointer to be displayed on said display device, in the sequence of addressing, to form and display, in human readable form, said mathematical expression which is formed in memory.

3. The data processor of claim 2, wherein one mathematical menu object has menu items characterizing different mathematical disciplines to be first selected in preparation for developing and displaying a mathematical expression, one menu item being selectable to characterize the desired mathematical discipline.

4. The data processor of claim 3, including means responsive to the selection of a menu item (Ln) from said one mathematical menu object to provide a mathematical function [Ln(] of the mathematical expression to be developed.

5. The data processor of any preceding claim, wherein one menu item (FORM) of said mathematical menu objects identify a different mathematical menu object and further including a control interface element (104) for selecting said one menu item, selection of said one menu item causing said different mathematical menu object to be displayed in place of said mathematical menu object which contained said one menu item.

6. The data processor as in claim 5, wherein said different mathematical menu object provides a cursor (14) on said display, said control interface element being operable to move said cursor among different terms (Ln,2.3,etc.) in said mathematical expression which is displayed to select a mathematical function term (+) designating desired editing of said mathematical expression.

7. The data processor as in claim 6, including a menu selection interface element (NEXT), actuation of said menu selection interface element causing said different mathematical menu object to be replaced with a further different mathematical menu object containing an editing menu item (→ ←), operation of said control interface element to select said editing menu item, causing said desired editing of said displayed mathematical expression.

Patentansprüche

1. Datenverarbeitungseinrichtung zum Durchführen mathematischer Operationen mit einem mathematischen Ausdruck in Übereinstimmung mit der Syntax des mathematischen Ausdruckes, mit
(a) einer Verarbeitungsvorrichtung (201),
(b) einem Speicher (203, 204, RAM 1, RAM 2),
(c) Menü-Objekten, mathematischen Funktions-Objekten (Ln, +) und Zahlen-Objekten (1, 2,3), die in dem Speicher gespeichert sind,
(d) einzelnen Schnittstellenelementen (104, 105, 107, etc.),
(e) einer Objekt-Fortschaltvorrichtung mit einem Datenzeigerstapel (305) im Speicher zwischen einzelnen Schnittstellenelementen (202) und einzelnen Objektpositionen in dem Speicher, wobei jeder Zeiger (1006) ein entsprechendes Objekt im Speicher addressiert, und ein Serienbetrieb ausgewählter Schnittstellenelemente entsprechende Zeiger in dem Datenzeigerstapel und dadurch Menü-Objekte, mathematische Funktions-Objekte und Zahlen-Objekte in der Reihenfolge des Betriebs der Schnittstellenelemente auswählt, wodurch ein in dem Speicher aufgezeichnetes mathema-

tisches Ausdrucks-Objekt [Ln(2,3 + 1)] gebildet wird,

(f) wobei die Menü-Objekte einzelne mathematische Menü-Objekte umfassen, die jeweils auf verschiedene mathematische Ausdrücke bezogen sind, wobei jedes mathematisches Menü-Objekt einzelne aufgezeichnete Menüpunkte (602-604) umfaßt, die jeweils mathematische Operationen (704) definieren, welche mit einem mathematischen Ausdruck in Übereinstimmung mit der Syntax dieses mathematischen Ausdruckes durchgeführt werden sollen,

(g) eine mathematische Menü-Objekt-Auswahlvorrichtung zwischen dem Speicher (RAM 1, RAM 2), bei dem mathematische Ausdrucks-Objekte aufgezeichnet sind, und dem Speicher (203, 204), bei dem mathematische Menü-Objekte gespeichert sind, wobei ein im Speicher aufgezeichnetes mathematisches Ausdrucks-Objekt ein bestimmtes im Speicher gespeichertes mathematisches Menü-Objekt addressiert,

(h) einer Anzeigevorrichtung (207, 208),

(i) einer Objektanzeigevorrichtung (200, 201, 205, 206) zwischen den Schnittstellenelementen (202) und der Anzeigevorrichtung (207, 208), welche auf der Anzeigevorrichtung eine Anzeige ausgewählter und addressierter einzelner mathematischer Funktions-Objekte und Zahlen-Objekte in der Reihenfolge der Auswahl und Addressierung und des sich durch diese Auswahl und Addressierung ergebenden, im Speicher aufgezeichneten mathematischen Ausdrucks-Objekts zusammen mit einer Anzeige des addressierten mathematischen Menü-Objekts einschließlich dessen Menüpunkten in für den Menschen lesbarer Form vorsieht, und

(j) einer Menüpunkte-Addressier- und -Auswahlvorrichtung (200, 201) zwischen den Schnittstellenelementen und dem Speicher (203, 204), auf welche durch den Betrieb eines Schnittstellenelementes zugegriffen wird, um die Ausführung der mathematischen Operationen durch die Verarbeitungsvorrichtung mit einem im Speicher (RAM 1, RAM 2) aufgezeichneten mathematischen Ausdruck in Übereinstimmung mit den mathematischen Operationen eines Menüpunktes (602-604) auszulösen, welcher durch Betrieb eines Schnittstellenelementes von der Anzeige der Menüpunkte ausgewählt wurde.

2. Datenverarbeitungseinrichtung nach Anspruch 1, bei der die Anzeigevorrichtung (205, 206) bewirkt, daß jedes von einem ausgewählten Zeiger addressierte Objekt in der Reihenfolge der Addressierung auf der Anzeigevorrichtung angezeigt wird, um den mathematischen Ausdruck, der im Speicher gebildet wird, in einer für den Menschen lesbaren Form zu bilden und anzuzeigen.

3. Datenverarbeitungseinrichtung nach Anspruch 2, bei der ein mathematisches Menü-Objekt Menüpunkte aufweist, die verschiedene mathematische Disziplinen charakterisieren, welche zunächst zur Vorbereitung, zum Entwickeln und Anzeigen eines mathematischen Ausdruckes auszuwählen sind, wobei ein Menüpunkt auswählbar ist, um die gewünschte mathematische Disziplin zu kennzeichnen.

4. Datenverarbeitungseinrichtung nach Anspruch 3, mit einer Vorrichtung, die auf die Auswahl eines Menüpunktes (Ln) von dem einen mathematischen Menü-Objekt anspricht, um eine mathematische Funktion [Ln()] des zu entwickelnden mathematischen Ausdruckes vorzusehen.

5. Datenverarbeitungseinrichtung nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, bei der ein Menüpunkt (FORM) der mathematischen Menü-Objekte ein anderes mathematisches Menü-Objekt identifiziert, und mit ferner einem Steuerschnittstellenelement (104) zum Auswählen des einen Menüpunktes, wobei die Auswahl des einen Menüpunktes bewirkt, daß das andere mathematische Menü-Objekt anstelle des mathematischen Menü-Objektes angezeigt wird, welches diesen einen Menüpunkt enthielt.

6. Datenverarbeitungseinrichtung nach Anspruch 5, bei der das andere mathematische Menü-Objekt einen Cursor (14) auf der Anzeige vorsieht, wobei das Steuerschnittstellenelement so betrieben werden kann, daß es den Cursor zwischen verschiedenen Ausdrücken (Ln, 2,3, etc.) in dem mathematischen Ausdruck bewegt, welcher sich auf der Anzeige befindet, um einen mathematischen Funktionsterm (+) auszuwählen, der eine gewünschte Editierung des mathematischen Ausdruckes bezeichnet.

7. Datenverarbeitungseinrichtung nach Anspruch 6, mit einem Menüauswahlschnittstellenelement (NEXT), wobei die Betätigung des Menüauswahlschnittstellenelementes bewirkt, daß das andere mathematische Menü-Objekt durch eine weiteres anderes mathematisches Menü-Objekt ersetzt wird, das einen Editier-Menüpunkt (→←) enthält, wobei das Steuerschnittstellenelement zum Auswählen des Editier-Menüpunktes betrieben wird, um die gewünschte Editierung des angezeigten mathematischen Ausdruckes

* C L M S *

zu bewirken.

Revendications

1. Processeur de données pour réaliser des opérations mathématiques sur une expression mathématique concordant avec la syntaxe de l'expression mathématique, comprenant:
(a) un dispositif de traitement (201);
(b) une mémoire (203, 204, RAM 1, RAM 2);
(c) des objets de menu, des objets de fonction mathématique (Ln, +) et des objets de nombre (1, 2.3) mémorisés dans ladite mémoire;
(d) des éléments individuels d'interface (104, 105, 107, etc.);
(e) des moyens pour faire avancer des objets incluant une pile de pointeur de données (305) en mémoire entre des éléments individuels d'interface (202) et des emplacements individuels d'objet dans ladite mémoire, chaque pointeur (1006) adressant un objet respectif en mémoire, une action séquentielle d'éléments d'interface sélectionnés sélectionnant des pointeurs correspondants dans ladite pile de pointeur de données et à partir de ceux-ci des objets de menu, des objets de fonction mathématique et des objets de nombre dans la séquence d'action desdits éléments d'interface, de sorte à former ainsi un objet d'expression mathématique [Ln(2.3 + 1)] enregistré dans ladite mémoire;
(f) lesdits objets de menu comprenant de objets individuels de menu mathématique correspondent respectivement à des expressions mathématiques distinctes, chaque objet de menu mathématique comprenant des éléments individuels de menu enregistrés (602 à 604) définissant respectivement des opérations mathématiques (704) à effectuer sur une expression mathématique concordante avec la syntaxe de cette expression mathématique;
(g) des moyens de sélection d'objet de menu mathématique entre une mémoire (RAM 1, RAM 2) dans laquelle sont enregistrés des objets d'expression mathématique et une mémoire dans laquelle sont mémorisés des objets de menu mathématique, un objet d'expression mathématique lorsqu'il est enregistré en mémoire adressant un objet de menu mathématique spécifique mémorisé en mémoire;
(h) un dispositif d'affichage (207, 208);
(i) des moyens d'affichage d'objet (200, 201, 205, 206) entre lesdits éléments d'interface (202) et ledit dispositif d'affichage (207, 208), fournissant un affichage sur ledit dispositif d'affichage, dans une forme lisible par une personne, d'objets individuels de fonction mathématique sélectionnés et adressés et d'objets de nombre dans la séquence de sélection et d'adressage et de l'objet d'expression mathématique résultant enregistré en mémoire par ces sélection et adressage, conjointement à un affichage de l'objet de menu mathématique adressé incluant ses éléments de menu; et
(j) des moyens d'adressage et de sélection d'élément de menu (200, 201) entre lesdits éléments d'interface et ladite mémoire (203, 204) accessible par l'action d'un élément d'interface, pour démarrer l'exécution d'opérations mathématiques par ledit dispositif de traitement sur un expression mathématique enregistrée en mémoire (RAM 1, RAM 2) en accord avec des opérations mathématiques d'un élément de menu (602 à 604) sélectionné à partir de l'affichage des éléments de menu par le fonctionnement d'un élément d'interface.

2. Processeur de données selon la revendication 1, dans lequel lesdits moyens d'affichage (205, 206) provoque l'affichage sur ledit dispositif d'affichage de chaque objet adressé par un pointeur sélectionné, dans la séquence d'adressage, pour former et afficher, dans une forme lisible par une personne, ladite expression mathématique qui est formée en mémoire.

3. Processeur de données selon la revendication 2, dans lequel un objet de menu mathématique comprend des éléments de menu caractérisant différentes disciplines mathématiques qui sont sélectionnées en premier lors d'une préparation pour développer et afficher une expression mathématique, un élément de menu pouvant être sélectionné pour caractériser le discipline mathématique souhaitée.

4. Processeur de données selon la revendication 3, incluant des moyens répondant à la sélection d'un élément de menu (Ln) dans ledit objet de menu mathématique pour fournir une fonction mathématique [Ln] de l'expression mathématique à développer.

5. Processeur de données selon l'une quelconques de revendications précédentes dans lequel un élément de menu (FORM) desdits objets de menu mathématique identifie un objet de menu mathématique différent et incluant également un élément d'interface de commande (104) pour sélectionner ledit élément de menu, la sélection dudit élément de menu entraînant l'affichage dudit objet de menu mathématique différent à la place dudit objet de menu mathématique qui contient ledit élément de menu.

6. Processeur de données selon la revendication 5, dans lequel ledit objet de menu mathématique différent fournit un curseur (14) sur ledit affichage, ledit élément d'interface de commande étant actionnable afin de déplacer ledit curseur parmi différents termes (Ln, 2.3, etc.) dans ladite expression mathématique qui est affichée afin de sélectionner un terme de fonction mathématique (+) désignant une édition souhaitée de ladite expression mathématique.

7. Processeur de données selon la revendication 6, incluant un élément d'interface de sélection de menu (NEXT), l'actionnement dudit élément d'interface de sélection de menu entraînant le remplacement dudit objet de menu mathématique différent par un objet de menu mathématique différent supplémentaire contenant un élément de menu d'édition (→ ←), l'action dudit élément d'interface de commande pour sélectionner ledit élément de menu d'édition entraînant ladite édition souhaitée de ladite expression mathématique affichée.