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BI-DIRECTIONAL HANDSHAKING OVER A SINGLE WIRE

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### Publication Date

1978-12-01

Submitted to BYTE Publications, Inc.

LBL-8490  
Preprint

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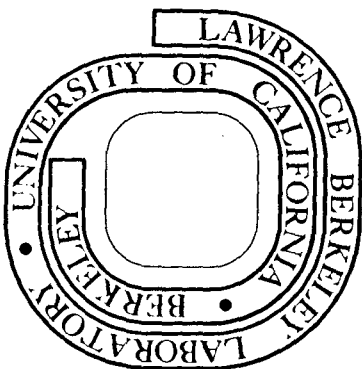
John Meng

December 1978

Prepared for the U. S. Department of Energy  
under Contract W-7405-ENG-48

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BI-DIRECTIONAL HANDSHAKING OVER A SINGLE WIRE

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December 1978

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This work was supported by the Physical Science Division of  
The Department of Energy under Contract No. W-7405-ENG-48.

BI-DIRECTIONAL HANDSHAKING OVER A SINGLE WIRE

John Meng

Handshaking is a bidirectional proposition. After a computer signals a controller, the controller must somehow pass an answer back to the computer. We have for several years been successfully using bidirectional communication over a single signal line to effect handshaking between a computer system and its peripherals. The accompanying figure details this scheme.

Operationally, the sequence begins with the service request at the device going high at the logic input. This supplies base current into  $Q_2$ . The collector voltage at  $Q_1$  (the communication line) is the sum of the base-emitter voltage of  $Q_2$  and the saturation collector-to-emitter voltage  $Q_1$ , approximately one volt. Thus the communication line drops to about one volt. Simultaneously, the collector of  $Q_2$  (the sense line) drops nearly to ground.

At the controller end, a diode in series with the signal from the communication line results in a logic signal to be sensed by the controller. The controller responds to this logic signal by raising the response line, supplying base current to  $Q_3$ . The collector of  $Q_3$  (the communication line) drops nearly to zero volts, robbing collector current from  $Q_1$  (and the base current from  $Q_2$ ) at the other end of the communication line. This results in  $Q_2$  switching off and the rise of the sense line.

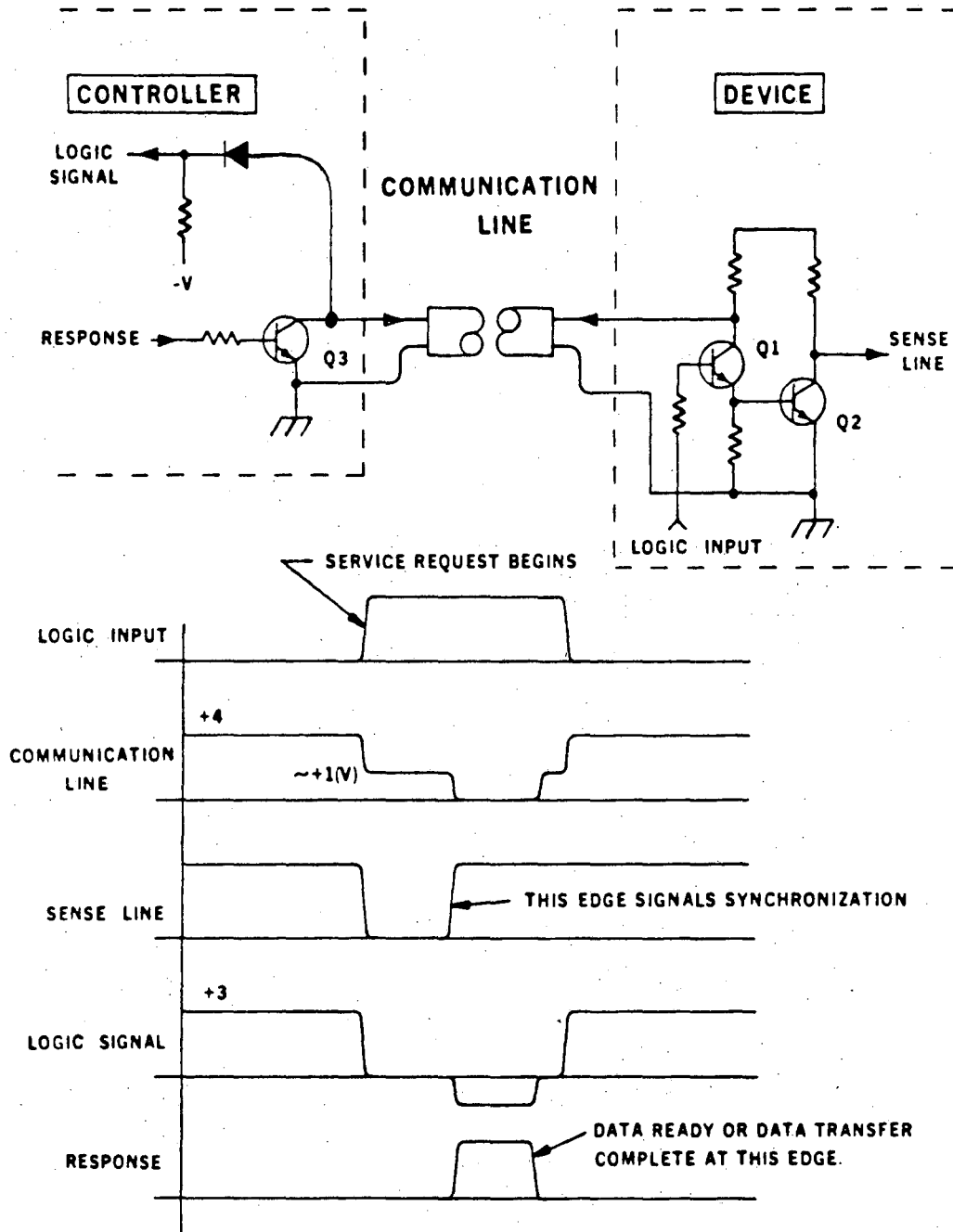
In summary, the logic input at the device end has signalled the controller by producing the logic signal at the controller end. The controller's response is to switch the sense line at the device end. The handshake is complete.

## Bi-Directional Handshaking

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### Reference

Meng, John D., "A Serial Input/Output Scheme for Small Computers," Computer Design, Vol 9, No. 3, Mar, 1970, pp.71-75.



**ONE HANDSHAKING SEQUENCE OVER A BIDIRECTIONAL COMMUNICATION LINE**

XBL 789-11238

Figure 1

This report was done with support from the Department of Energy. Any conclusions or opinions expressed in this report represent solely those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of The Regents of the University of California, the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory or the Department of Energy.



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