

VZ VARIABLE DEFINITION

The statements DEFINT, DEFSNG, DEFDBL and DEFSTR are not implemented in VZ-200 Basic (although the code for these

is in ROM). A way of simulating these statements, without having to write great chunks of assembler, is to make use of the Variable Declaration Table located between 30977 and 31002 (7901-791AH).

The VDT is 26 bytes in length, one for each letter of

the alphabet. Each location contains a code defining the status of variables beginning with each letter:

- 2 — integer
- 3 — string
- 4 — single precision
- 8 — double precision

On power up and whenever a program is RUN, the whole of the VDT is initialised to single precision (ie, each location contains a 4).

The values in the VDT may be altered to define different variable types. For example, if you wanted to define all A to Z variables as integers, you would put the following code at the start of your program:

```
10 FOR I = 30977 TO 31002 : POKE I,2 : NEXT
```

This is equivalent to the 'DEFINT A-Z' statement in Level II Microsoft Basic.

Alternatively, the following formula could be used to define individual variables:

```
10 POKE 30912 + ASC("Q"),3
```

(This would define Q as a string as in 'DEFSTR Q'.)

Note that Basic will not accept double precision variables as counters in FOR-NEXT loops. Also note that it is no longer necessary to use a suffix of '\$' or '%' after a string or integer variable has been defined.

C Stamboulidis