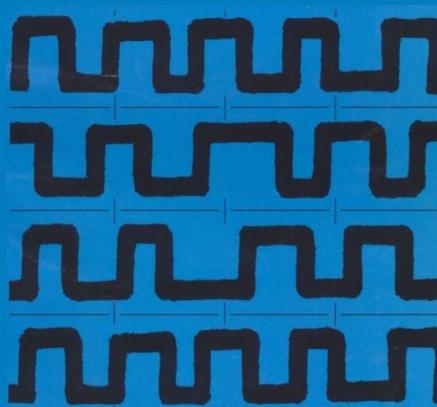


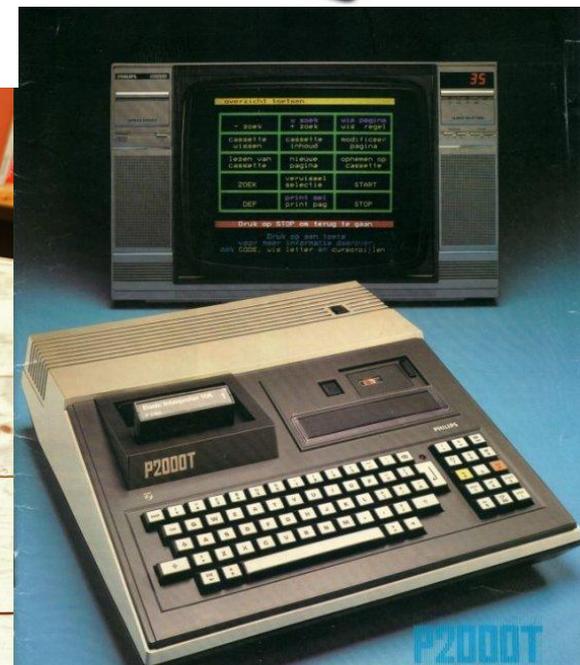
basiccode

the 8-bit API
that crossed the Berlin Wall



Rob Hagemans :: FOSDEM 2020 :: Brussels

The 1980s: a Cambrian explosion of 8-bit “micro” computers



BASIC, BASIC everywhere

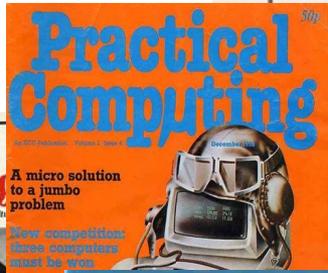
... nor any one the same

```
10 FOR I=0 TO 100
20 CLS
30 PRINT USING"FO$DEM ####";2020+I
40 NEXT I
```

```
10 FOR I=0 TO 100:PRINTCHR$(144)
20 PRINT"FO$DEM ";2020+i
30 NEXT:GOTO 10
```

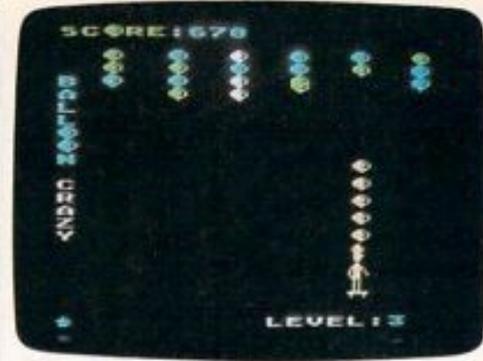
```
10 TEXT
20 FOR I=0 TO 100:HOME
30 PRINT "FO$DEM";2020+I
40 NEXT I:GOTO 10
```

Magazines & type-in listings



```

00 599 REM POPPING SOUND
00 600 FOR S=15 TO 0 STEP -1
      :SOUND 0,15,0,S:SOUND
      1,16,0,S:NEXT S
10 610 SOUND 0,0,0,0:SOUND 1
      ,0,0,0:RETURN
1A 999 REM CHECK FOR COLLISI
      ON
MK 1000 PEK=PEEK(53261):IF P
      EK=0 THEN RETURN
L0 1002 GOTO 1010
NL 1005 FOR I=25 TO 10 STEP
      -5:SOUND 0,1,4,0:SOU
      ND 1,I+2,2,0:NEXT I:
      SOUND 0,0,0,0:SOUND
      1,0,0,0:RETURN
LM 1009 REM DID BALLOON HIT
      HEAD?
010 IF BY-BB<3 THEN PM$(
      H+BB,P0+BB)=B$:BB=BB
      -11:BAI=BAI-1:BOH=BO
      H+1:BAI(BOH)=C(I-1,B
      R/3):POP :GOTO 60
019 REM DID ARM HIT BALL
      OON?
020 IF STRIG(0)=0 THEN I
      F ABS(BY-170)<3 THEN
      1040
      ((A>PP)-(A<=PP))
      POKE 53249,A:POKE
      1:RETURN
      IF HIT THEN P=PP
      >PP)-(P<=PP))*3
      K=BY TO BL STEP
      GOSUB 500:SOUND 0
      10,0:PM$(P1+K,F+K
      ):POKE 53249,P
      (((P>PP)-(P<=PP)
  
```



Player/missile graphics animate the player and balloons in the Atari version of "Balloon Crazy."

```

IF SC>BONUS THEN LF=
LF+1:BONUS=BONUS+100
0#LVL:COLOR 72:PLOT
LF,23
02040 IF BOH<1 THEN 2060
02050 FOR K=1 TO BOH:FOR J
=150-K*11 TO 160-K*1
1:PM$(P0+J,P0+J+12)=
B$:NEXT J:NEXT K:NEX
T I
02060 PM$(PT,PM)=N$:RETURN
02499 REM CHOOSE BALLOON T
O FALL
02500 BR=3+INT(RND(0)*6)*3
FOR I=5 TO 2 STEP -
1:GOSUB 500:LOCATE B
R,I,BT:IF BT=32 THEN
  
```

Kijk bij gebruik van deze poster eerst in het lijst hiernaast. Daar staan de weinige opdrachten die op (bijna) alle machines gelijk zijn. Door de kleine afmetingen van de hokjes is het niet mogelijk van alle opdrachten hun volledige kracht te laten zien. De meest voorkomende gevallen van een opdracht worden vermeld, maar een bredere betekenis blijft altijd mogelijk.
Pas wel op: een zelfde syntaxis wil nog niet zeggen een zelfde betekenis. Bijvoorbeeld RND(exp) op de Enterprise levert een willekeurig geheel getal op, maar op andere machines veelal een willekeurig getal tussen 0 en 1.
Gehuld- en grafische opdrachten zijn niet opgenomen: die zijn te ingewikkeld en te verschillend per computer.

OVEREENKOMSTIGE INSTRUCTIES

ABS(exp) geeft de absolute waarde van de meegegeven expressie
COS(exp) geeft de cosinus van de meegegeven expressie
END einde van het programma.
Opm.: niet beschikbaar op de Sinclair QL. Op de Enterprise moet deze opdracht soms parameters hebben.
FOR var = exp TO exp begin van een lus die loopt van de eerste expressie tot de tweede expressie, waarbij de stapgrootte (STEP), indien opgegeven, gelijk is aan de derde expressie, anders gelijk aan 1.

LEN (string) geeft de lengte van de meegegeven string.
Opn.: spatie is verplicht op de Memotech.
LET var = exp toekenning van de expressie aan de opgegeven variabele.
Opm.: op veel machines mag LET wettelingen worden wat achter deze opdracht staat is commentaar en de computer ziet dat niet als opdrachten
REM tekst geeft de sinus van de meegegeven expressie.
SIN(exp) bepaalt de wortel van de expressie, die niet negatief mag zijn.
SQR(exp) bepaalt de uitvoering van het programma, het programma kan weer verder draaien met behoud van de variabelen.
STOP

COMMODORE 64 AND VIC 20:

Change lines 10, 40 and 150 to:

PRINT CHR\$(147)

Change line 190 to:

190 R = INT (RND (1) * 2) + 1

IBM PC AND PCJR: Change lines

10, 40, and 150 to: **CLS**

Add or change these lines:

5 RANDOMIZE TIMER

190 R = INT (RND * 2) + 1

TRS-80 COLOR COMPUTER:

Change lines 10, 40 and 150 to: **CLS**

Change line 190 to:

190 R = RND(2)

TI 99/4A: Change lines 10, 40 and

150 to: **CALL CLEAR**

Add or replace these lines:

5 RANDOMIZE

45 I = 0

STANDAARD MICROSOFT

BASICODE

SCHNEIDER 464, 664 & 6128

APPLE II

ATARI XL-SERIE

ELECTRON/BBC/MASTER

COMMODORE 128/+4/C-16

VIC 20/COMMODORE 64

ENTERPRISE

IBM PC — BASIC A/GW-BASIC

MEMOTECH

MSX1/MSX2

DRAGON/TRS-80 level 2

SHARP MZ-700

(cassette Basic)

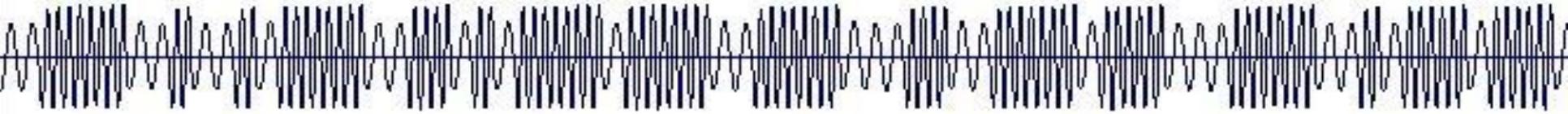
ATARI ST-SERIE

SINCLAIR QL

P2000T

	ASC	ATN	AUTO	CALL	CHAIN	CHR\$(CLEAR	CLOSE	CONT	DATA	DEF	DELETE	DIM	EDIT
	Geeft ASCII waarde van de eerste teken van de string	Aanpakken van de expressie		roep een assemblage subroutine aan	roep een nieuw programma op en geeft alle variabelen door	Geeft een string van het teken dat de ASCII code van de variabele heeft	wist alle (of de geselecteerde) variabelen	sluit de disk bestanden of andere specifieke variabelen	doorgaan met uitvoeren van het programma	lijst van data op in een READ-opdracht te gebruiken	definieert een rekenkundige string functie	haalt de geselecteerde programma regels weg	reserveert geheugenruimte voor arrays en specificeert maximale subscript waarde	maakt een blok van een programma
ASC(string)	ATN(exp)	AUTO [regain, waarde]	CALL adr [var, var...]	CHAIN "bestandsnaam"	CHR\$(exp)	CLEAR [exp, exp...]	CLOSE	CONT	DATA const [, const...]	DEF FNvar [param, param...] = exp	DELETE [regain, regain]	DIM var[sub, var[sub]...]	EDIT	EDIT
ASC(string)	ATN(exp)	(m)		(m)	CHR\$(exp)		GOSUB 560	DATA const [, const...]			(m)	DIM var[sub, var[sub]...]	(m)	
ASC(string)	ATN(exp)	AUTO [regain, toename]	CALL adr [param, param...]	CHAIN "bestandsnaam" [regain, exp]	CHR\$(exp)	CLEAR [alles] [var, var...]	CLOSE IN CLOSE OUT Opn.: cassette moet open zijn	CONT	DATA const [, const...]	DEF FNvar [param, param...] = exp	DELETE [regain, regain]	DIM var[sub, var[sub]...]	EDIT	EDIT
ASC(string)	ATN(exp)	CHAIN "bestandsnaam"	CALL adr [var, var...]	CHAIN "bestandsnaam"	CHR\$(exp)	CLEAR	CLOSE [bestandsnr, var, var...]	CONT	DATA const [, const...]	DEF FN [var, param, param...] = exp	DELETE [regain, regain]	DIM var[sub, var[sub]...]	EDIT	EDIT
ASC(string)	ATN(exp)	USR [adr, var, var...]	RUN "bestandsnaam"	CHR\$(exp)	CLR	CLOSE # [bestandsnr, var, var...]	CONT	DATA const [, const...]	DEF FN [var, param, param...] = exp	DELETE [regain, regain]	DIM var[sub, var[sub]...]	EDIT	EDIT	
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ASC(string)	ATN(exp)	USR [adr, var, var...]	RUN "bestandsnaam"	CHR\$(exp)	CLR	CLOSE [bestandsnr, var, var...]	CONT	DATA const [, const...]	DEF FN [var, param, param...] = exp	DELETE [regain, regain]	DIM var[sub, var[sub]...]	EDIT	EDIT	
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ASC(string)	ATN(exp)	USR [adr, var, var...]	RUN "bestandsnaam"	CHR\$(exp)	CLR	CLOSE [bestandsnr, var, var...]	CONT	DATA const [, const...]	DEF FN [var, param, param...] = exp	DELETE [regain, regain]	DIM var[sub, var[sub]...]	EDIT	EDIT	
ASC(string)	ATN(exp)	USR [adr, var, var...]	RUN "bestandsnaam"	CHR\$(exp)	CLR	CLOSE [bestandsnr, var, var...]	CONT	DATA const [, const...]	DEF FN [var, param, param...] = exp	DELETE [regain, regain]	DIM var[sub, var[sub]...]	EDIT	EDIT	
ASC(string)	ATN(exp)	USR [adr, var, var...]	RUN "bestandsnaam"	CHR\$(exp)	CLR	CLOSE [bestandsnr, var, var...]	CONT	DATA const [, const...]	DEF FN [var, param, param...] = exp	DELETE [regain, regain]	DIM var[sub, var[sub]...]	EDIT	EDIT	

1981: transmitting programs by radio



1983: an API based on GOSUBs

```
1000 A=100: GOTO 20: REM *** BASICODE DEMO ***
1010 FOR I = 0 TO 100
1020 GOSUB 100
1030 PRINT "FOSDEM ";2020+I
1040 NEXT I
1050 GOTO 1010
1060 END
```

1000: first line of the BASICODE-2 program. It must be in the following form: 1000 A=(value): GOTO 20: REM program name. (value) is the maximum number of characters that can be used by all strings together. Line 20 is used to reserve memory space for the strings in those computers which need it.

1010-32767: the main program. There are no restrictions on this section, except that line numbers above 32767 are forbidden.

3. Operation of the BASICODE-2 standard routines

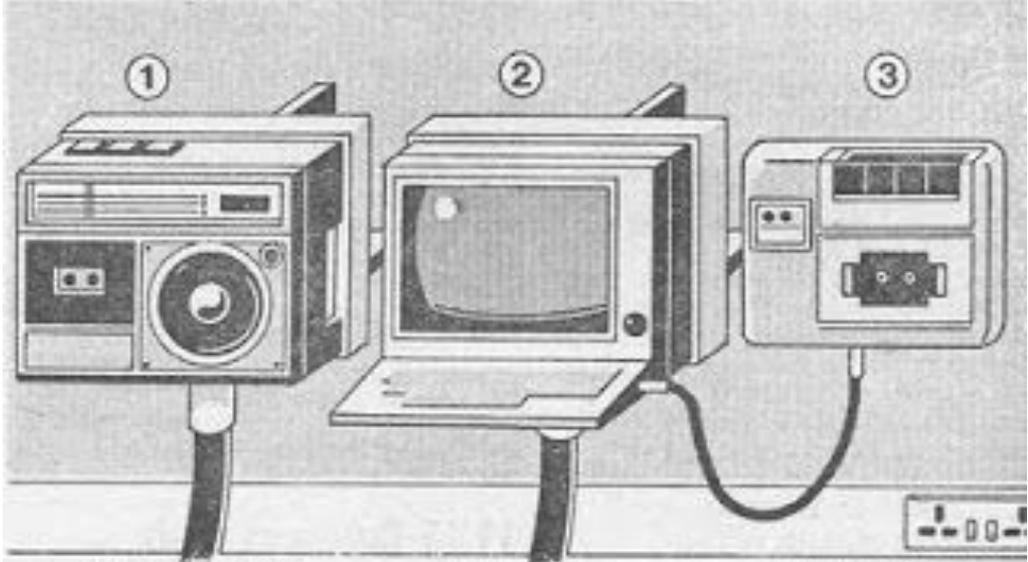
These are written specifically for each computer brand and form part of the translation program. They look different in the various BASIC dialects but in fact they do exactly the same in each case.

GOSUB 100:

This subroutine is used to clear the screen and set the cursor at position 0,0 (i.e. the top left-hand corner of the screen.)

GOSUB 110:

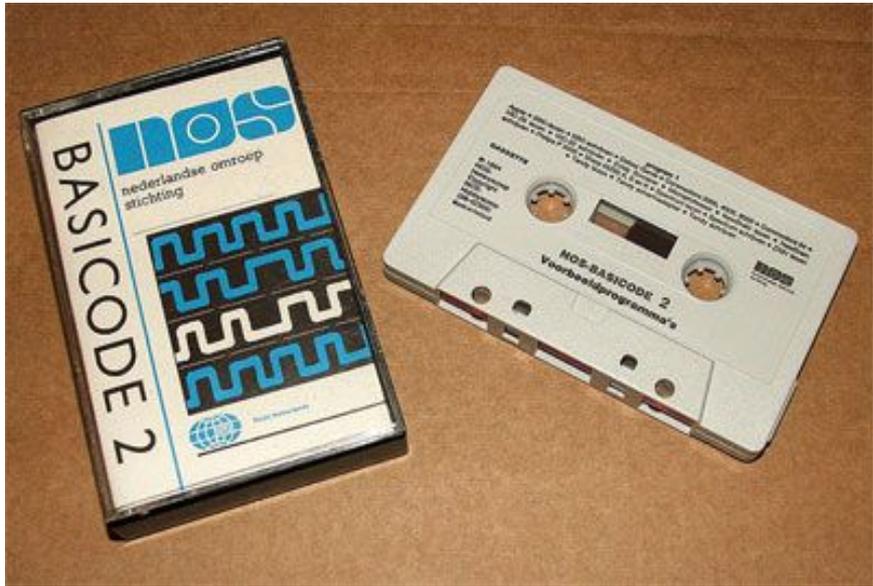
This places the cursor at a specific point on the screen. The exact point can



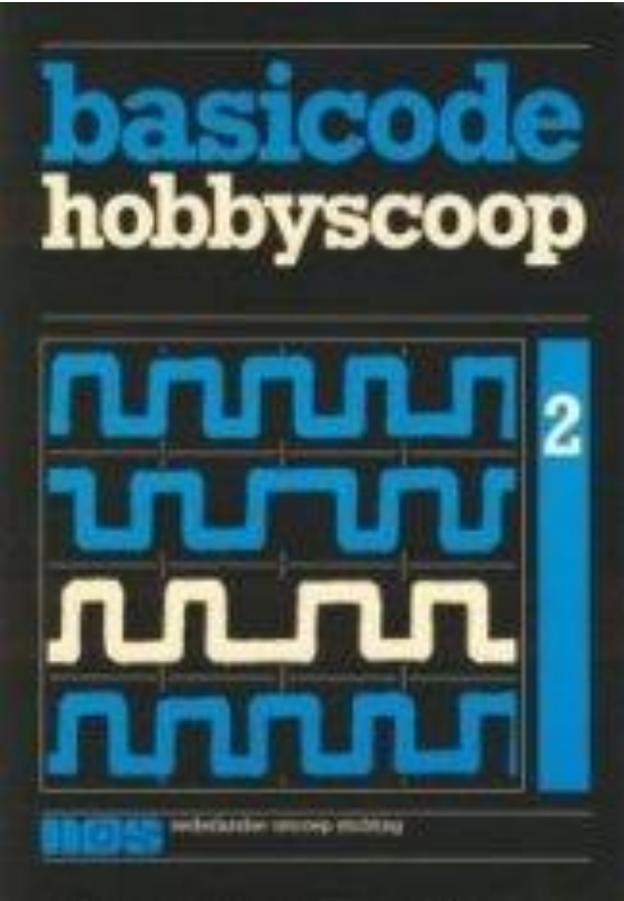
① Tape record the program off-air. Record at the right level—too high may distort, too low might not be picked up.

② 'Load' the translation program for your computer using the Basicode cassette. It will now understand Basicode recorded broadcasts

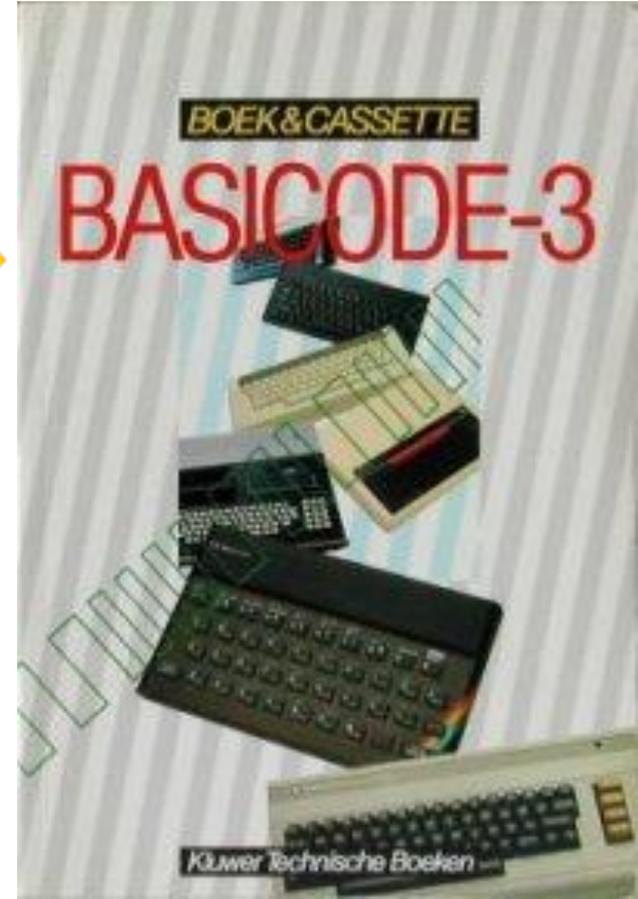
③ 'Load' the broadcast software and 'run' in the usual way.



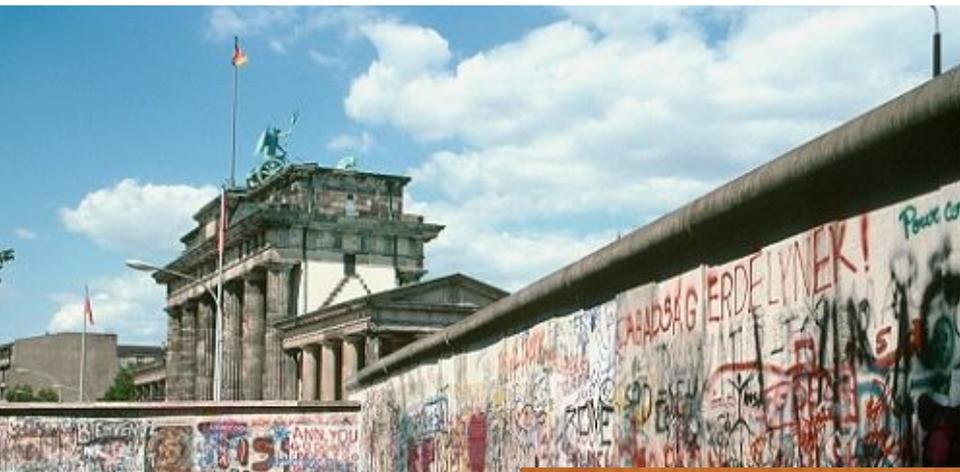
1985: licence wars and a fork



TROS 

The word "TROS" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. To its right is a yellow, stylized starburst or gear-like symbol.

Early 1989: across the Wall



robotron®

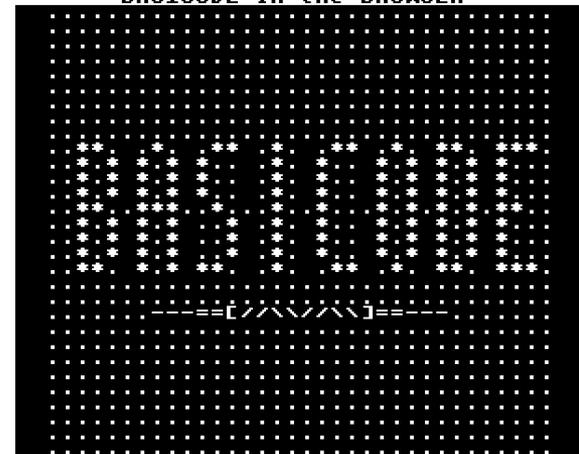


BASICODE in JavaScript

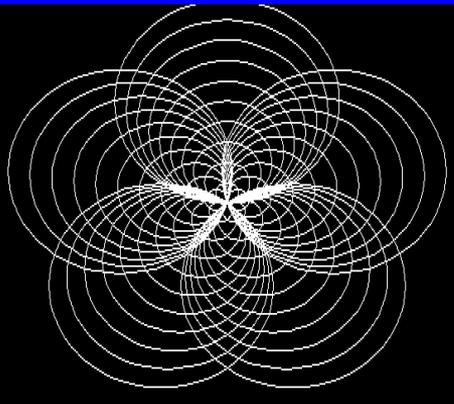
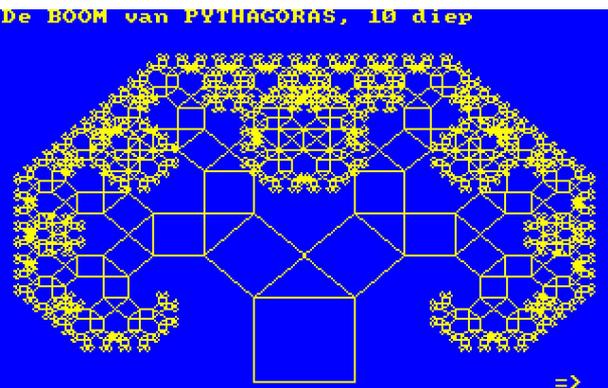
```

<html>
<head>
  <script src="basicode.js"></script>
</head>
<body>
  <script type="text/basicode">
    1010 PRINT "Hello, world!"
  </script>
</body>
</html>

```



(c) 2016, 2017 Rob Hagemans



РУССКИЙ АЛФАБИТ
 АБВГДЕЖЗИЙКЛМНОПРСТУФХЦЧШЩЪЫЬЭЮЯ

VERTAAL IN HET NEDERLANDS:
 ZDRAVSTVUITE

?

```

Welcome!
-----
Welcome to the growing group of
Basicode users. On this side of the
cassette are a number of example
programs
can try l
then you
Taken number
a

```



```

*****
**      **
**      **
**      **
*****
**      **
**      **
**      **
*****

```

 druk toets =>



```

DAGEN
maand 2
dag 1
uur 16

```

Thank you!

History & sources

Janny Looyenga, Frank Veraart, Jan Bredenbeek, André van der Leeden, Thomas Rademacher, Victor Reijs
and many others

References

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Trevor Taylor (ed.), *The Chip Shop BASICODE-2*, Broadcasting Support Services, London, 1984.

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links & materials at

<https://github.com/robhagemans/basicode>