

Enjoy reading the November issue of the HP-39/40g newsletter!

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Letter from the editor.

It seems that the HP-39/40g community is taking a winter nap. Nothing gets released anymore (except some programs from me) and no new programs get announced. But you don't have to worry, because the editor thinks this is only temporary. I'm still working on my site (it's harder than I thought) and hopefully when it's finished I will release a bunch of things, that will keep you busy for some time. Also the new calculator the HP-39g+ should bring new programmers and new programs. So the future looks bright...

To come through these hard times there is always the HP-39/40g monthly newsletter! And again there are some interesting things in it. We take a closer look to the new HP-39g+, there is a very interesting 'program of the month' for HP-39/40g sys-rpl programmers, the only upcoming program looks interesting for chemistry students and last but not least there is an interview with top-programmer Lilian Pigallio (HP-worms, Ice-Cube, Puzzle Bobble etc.).

Enjoy reading the November issue,

The editor Michaël De Coninck

A look forward to the HP-39g+.

If you have taken a winter nap for the past few months then you probably missed the fact that HP is in calculators again. A cheer of joy for that. They decided to release a number of new calculators in September, October and the months after that. The HP-49g+, the 17BII+ and the HP-48gII are already released. The HP-39g+ has yet to come. But what does it feature? Well first a faster processor. USB support. A better keyboard 'feel'. A new aplet called Financial (gosh, I wonder what it's for) and better documentation accompanied with the calculator. And who knows some more surprises. No real changes (at least not to my knowledge), so there is backward compatibility with HP-39/40g programs. This is nice of course since there is already a large database of programs out on the web for the HP-39/40g. Unfortunately there will be no HP-40g+ released. This is a pity for European residents since they are allowed to use CAS on their tests. I do not give you my advise whether to buy this calculator or not. Since I do not own one.

Program of the month.

Well this month the program of the month is 'the HP calculator entry database for the HP-38/39(+)/40g' by Carsten Dominik. Basically it covers the syntax of all Sys-rpl commands for the HP-38/39(+)/40g. So it's very interesting for the ones who are interested in programming their HP-38/39(+)/40g's in Sys-rpl. Don't know what the syntax is for a command and you don't know what it does? Well then just look it up. It's that easy!

The amount of work for making this document must have been incredible so congrats to Carsten! For that alone it deserves to be program of the month. Congrats again Carsten! The only bad thing of document that there are still quite a few commands that he has no idea of what they do so if you want to help him mail him at: dominik@science.uva.nl

Specs:

System: HP-38/39(+)/40g.

Author: Carsten Dominik, Thomas Rast & Eduardo M. Kalinowski

Download where: <http://zon.astro.uva.nl/~dominik/hpcalc/entries/>

Upcoming programs.

I've taken over a project from Andri Winata. He was working on a **periodic table** for the HP-39/40g and now I will continue his work. This program can be very interesting to chemistry students. A very early beta can be downloaded on my site when it's finished or if you can't wait that long you can email me at the normal address (ndco232@tiscalinet.be) and ask for it.

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##### HYDROGEN #####          ##### HELIUM #####
Grp: 1                          1                2
Fon: Other Nonmetal            H                He
P.S.: Gas                      1.008           4.0026
St: HCP                         1.008           4.0026
Dst: 0.0000898 g/cm³           0.1786
M.P.: 14.06 K                  4.22 K
B.P.: 20.4 K                    4.2 K
CRYSTAL STRUCTURE              ELECTRONEGATIVITY

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Interview with Lilian Pigallio.

Interview	
Michaël	How old are you, and what of education do you have?
Lilian	I'm thirty years old. I have a diploma as engineer in computer science obtained at the age of 22 in ESSI. Till a while ago I worked in a small informatics company. I in particular have designed the first French paramedic software called 'SESAM-Vitale' (the system of healthy France) in 1998. Nowadays I'm a consultant for Amadeus that is the number one of the world regarding the reservation of airplane tickets.
Michaël	Where do you live?
Lilian	I live in France at the cote d'azur in a typically medieval village called Tourrettes sur loup. This village was even rated as one of the most stylish places of France by the very serious magazine L'express.
Michaël	What calculators do you own?
Lilian	A good old HP-48SX that I already had since my studies. And more recently I have a HP-49g and a HP-40g just for fun.
Michaël	What was the first program you ever wrote?
Lilian	That was on a French computer in the eighties called the Thomson MO5. The game was called 'The Haunted House' (La Maison Hantee) and was very successful at my school. These days you can still play it thanks to an emulator.
Michaël	What do you use your calculator for the most?
Lilian	Well for the moment just for fun. 😊
Michaël	Why did you start programming calculators?
Lilian	Because I had a programmable calculator. 😊
Michaël	Are there any programmers you admire?
Lilian	Yes I do! I think Phong Nguyen (author of ASM-FLASH), C. de Dinechin and the makers of meta kernel are fantastic programmers.
Michaël	Why?
Lilian	Well when I had my HP-48SX. I begun to program in user-rpl and after making 2-3 programs I had my revelation: THE pac-man from C. de Dinechin (which is still one of the best games ever made for these calculators). I went directly to my nearest FNAC (store) to see if they hadn't a book about programming in ASM on the HP-48. What I found was 'Voyage au centre de la HP' (first edition). I did try to understand their programming examples in ASM ('by hand' assembled). And after reading that I made some little programs in ASM that handled strings (also 'by hand' assembled) after that RUNWAY 2 (still 'by hand' assembled). If you want to know what 'by hand' assembled is I will explain It to you know: by hand assembled means that you have to convert all instructions in hexadecimal and calculate all the jumps ... I can tell you one thing it's madness. And the second revelation was when I found at the FNAC ASM-FLASH (initial version made by Phong Nguyen (who was at the time no older than thirteen years) and not J.Y Avenard!!!). With that utility I made my boulder dash 'the mine of diamonds'. Unfortunately it was released at the same as Boulder-DasHP (which was really good).

Michaël

Puzzle Bobble and Ice-Cube were amazing! Are there coming successors to these games or do you have some new projects?

Lilian

I will wait till we can program directly on the ARM to finally have real games in 3D.