EE / CprE / SE 4910 - sdmay26-07
A Miniature Replica of the Atanasoff-Berry Computer (ABC)
Week 1 Report

09/02/2025 - 09/23/2025
Client: Nitin Gadia
Faculty Advisor: Alexander Stoytchev

Team Members:

Isaac Blandin - Scheduling Lead, CAD Co-lead
Dylan Bunting - Electronics & QA Lead
Hoyt Dzwoniarski - Creative Design Lead
Thomas Huedepohl - CAD Co-lead
Mikhail McDade - Communications Lead & Client Liaison
Shobhit Singh - Meeting Moderator, Secretary

*** Due to the current state of the project, this team report is written from a team perspective, as we have not had a chance for true individual contributions. We will follow the more traditional format in the coming weeks.

Weekly Summary

Over the past two weeks, our team has performed many tasks related to team formation and forming relationships amongst ourselves, with our client, and with our faculty advisor. We have been able to organize our team via role distribution and process creation. We have had two meetings with our client in which we were able to discuss the client's vision for the project and whether that aligned with our vision as well. We performed research on the ABC Computer and were able to gain some basic understanding of what it did and how it did it. We were also able to meet with our faculty advisor, Dr. Stoytchev, which allowed us to learn even more about the ABC computer, along with discussing some of our thoughts and concerns with the project.

Unfortunately, the project currently sits in a precarious state due to issues with the foundation of the project itself, which may threaten the project being cut. This leaves us with a lot of unknowns that are currently being worked through.

Past Week Accomplishments

- Organized initial roles amongst the team
    - Determined the interests and aptitudes present amongst each member of the team and used that to determine the main roles/responsibilities for each member.
    - These are still flexible due to not having started the main work of the project yet, and the flexibility of roles to help each other when needed is still encouraged.
- Had an initial meeting with the client - 09/12

    - Discussed the overview of the project, including the intent of the project to be a product to be sold through Kickstarter or a similar platform.
    - No true scope of the project/design itself was established. This was slated by the team to be discussed more with the client in the future.
    - Went over some history of the ABC computer and work by previous senior design teams on similar projects.
- Team conducted research on the ABC Computer
    - Used online resources and reports by previous senior design teams to understand the workings of the ABC Computer and what it was used for.
- Second client meeting - 09/22
    - The team discussed our findings with the client to explain how the ABC Computer worked.
    - Continued to try and work with the client on developing a scope for the project; however, not much progress was made in this.
- First faculty advisor meeting - 09/22
    - The team was given a guided tour of the ABC “museum” in the Durham Hall atrium, along with some insight on how the ABC worked by Dr. Stoytchev.
    - Discussed the current state of the project, including out concerns about whether the project should be continued.

Pending Issues

- We still do not have any sense of scope or a general idea of what the client expects out of the project; this has not been able to be communicated clearly by the client.
- We are currently in discussions with the instructors on whether it is viable to continue on the current project or not.

Time Tracking

Name	Hours This Week (Period)	Cumulative Hours
Isaac Blandin	6	6
Dylan Bunting	6	6
Hoyt Dzwoniarski	6	6
Thomas Huedepohl	6	6
Mikhail McDade	7	7
Shobhit Singh	6	6

*** Currently, we have only had 4 hours of meetings with the client or advisor and a minimal amount of research amongst us all. We are hoping to reach a point of doing more technical work in the near future.

Plans for the Upcoming Week

Currently, the plans for the upcoming week fully depend on what the next step forward with the team is. If we remain with the project and client, then the team as a whole will be working on creating a declaration of scope to create an appropriate project for a senior design project; otherwise, we will be working amongst ourselves and with Dr. Stoytchev to create a new project proposal.