



Approaching Speed of Light

At speeds approaching that of light, information from punched cards, such as the one being held here, is fed into the new giant IBM-704 electronic computer at the Texas A. and M. College System's Data Processing Center, on the A. and M. College campus. The slotted cards will hold up to 864 pieces of information, and can be fed into the IBM-704 at the rate of 250 per minute. Shown here are (left to right) R. L. Smith, head of the new Center, and Bob Fagley and Dan Drew, both of International Business Machines Corp. builder of the IBM-704.

DEDICATION OF DATA PROCESSING CENTER

(Continued from Page 1)

that long before the 704 is being used that much.

One of College Five

Before going into the actual operation of the 704, one of five such machines on college campuses in the United States—the others are located at the University of Michigan, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of California at Los Angeles and the University of California at Berkeley—Rose gave the representatives of the press a background on the Data Processing Center and its equipment.

He told them the college leased the 604, the smallest of the three, in 1946; the 650, the middle range machine, in August, 1956; and the 704, the giant of IBM's data processing machine offerings, in December, 1959.

Board Order

Rose told newsmen the center was established by an order of the A&M System Board of Directors on Aug. 18, 1958.

"The Board of Directors showed extreme foresightedness of the importance of data processing by allowing us to design a special building rather than force us to adjust

the machines to existing facilities as some users of the machines have been forced to do," Rose said.

Then came the highlight of the newsmen's tour—a guided tour complete with explanations through the center.

Here's how the user of the center's facilities get the answer to their problems:

Which Machine?

First they present their problem to an analyst who surveys the data and the problem and decides which of the three machines is best suited for solving the problem.

After the analyst decides which machine, in this example the 704, a programmer sorts the data and prepares to put it in forms which the machine can use.

Cards Punched

The data is then sent to the card punching room where it is transferred from any written form to punched cards, similar to the ones used by A&M students at registration.

Then this data and all data needed by the machine to solve the problem is fed into the machine which, contrary to public concept doesn't think for itself but must be fed all material needed to solve a problem, then solves the problem

and comes up with the answer.

How fast does it come up with an answer?

One Second

Take a number from one to a billion; multiply it by another number from one to a billion; multiply that by 5,000; wait one second.

There's the answer.

It takes considerably less time to get the answer than to read the problem, using the 704.

"Talk Back . . ."

What if the wrong information on a problem is put into the 704? No problem for it has a built-in "talk back to the operator" feature and the teleprinter (on which answers are printed after calculations by the machine) will rap out some little message such as ". . . stop number so and so was incorrect procedure, numbers incorrect, problems cannot be solved until . . . etc."

Self Diagnosis

In case something goes wrong in one of the thousands of tubes or thousands of miles of wiring, the machine writes the operator a note telling him where the trouble is.

The giant computer can store up some 3 million characters in its

memory cores, along with 32,000 words and its magnetic tapes can write or read a half million characters in less than six minutes.

It can punch out answers on cards at the rate of 100 cards a minute or print 150 lines of reports in the same time.

Add, Subtract . . .

The 704 can make 40,000 addition or subtractions or 5,000 multiplications or divisions of 10 digit numbers in one second flat.

Incidentally, the 704 is not one machine, but a series of units composed of a central processing unit, card reader, card punch, printer, six magnetic drum unit and three power units.

At present 250 men here at A&M are registered for courses in mathematics, electrical engineering, industrial engineering, business administration, all requiring training on the high-speed machine at the center.

Write About Itself

After the newsmen had concluded their tour, they all agreed on one point—they wished they could use the machine to write their stories, they felt like only the machine could write an adequate story about itself!

And they're probably right.



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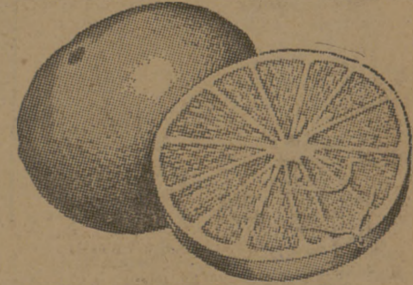
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The English Proficiency Examination for students majoring in business administration will be given January 19 at 4 p. m. in room 202, Francis Hall. Students who plan to take this examination will register in the main office of the Division of Business Administration prior to January 15. 5113

Regalia For The January Commencement Exercise All students who are candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy are required to order hoods as well as the doctor's cap and gown. The hoods are to be left at the Registrar's Office no later than 1:00 p. m., Tuesday, January 19 (this will be accomplished by a representative of the College Exchange Store). The Ph. D. hoods will not be worn in the procession since all such candidates will be hooded on the stage as a part of the ceremonies.

Candidates for the Master's Degree will wear the master's cap and gown; those who are candidates for the Bachelor's Degree, except Military students, will wear the bachelor's cap and gown. All Military students who are candidates for degrees will wear appropriate military uniforms.

Rental of caps and gowns may be arranged with the Exchange Store. Orders may be placed between 8:00 a. m. January 4 and 5:00 p. m. Friday, January 15. The rental is as follows: Doctor's cap and gown \$5.25, Master's cap and gown \$4.75, Bachelor's cap and gown \$4.25. Hood rental is the same as that for cap and gown.

C. E. Tishler, Chairman Conventions Committee 39118

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