UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Computer Centre

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Date: Week ended 8 July 1971
Authorization: Director of the Computer Centre

1.   OPERATIONS

1.1 PDP-10 System

Friday   2 July   System failure, 1900-1907

Monday   5 July   System development, Batch only off-line, 1258-1408

Tuesday   6 July   System development, Batch only off-line, 1300-1405

Wednesday   7 July   Card-reader maintenance, 1000-1015
                        System maintenance to parity error, 1455-1550

Thursday   8 July   System failure, software investigation, 1600-1715.
                        Card-reader maintenance, 2045-2132

Schedule for forthcoming week: Maintenance   0700-0900, 2300-2400
                                  Operations   1000-2200

1.2 GE-225 System

Schedule for forthcoming week: Maintenance   0700-0900, 2000-2100
                                  Operations   0900-2000, 2100-2400

2.   PUNCHED CARD OUTPUT FROM PDP-10

As from Monday 12 July the Computer Centre will introduce a service to
provide punched card output of PDP-10 ASCII files. The punched card
output is, in fact, obtained by using the GE-225.

(a) Output Request

     To obtain PDP-10 ASCII files in punched card form, the user must complete
     the form:
               'Request for PDP-10 Card Output'
     obtainable from the Centre and submit to the Operations Supervisor

(b) Output Collection

     The punched card output will be available for collection from the
     PDP-10 output shelves.

(c) Charges

Charges will be levied on the basis of size of the PDP-10 file to be
punched, and will be entered as a miscellaneous charge against the
user's PDP-10 project number.

Charge rates are:

University Departments	$0.60 per K words
Government Departments	$1.20 per K words
Non-Governmental Organizations	$1.50 per K words

3. ZEIGEN SUBROUTINE

The GE-225 ZEIGEN subroutine (classification number D4.270) will not run
properly on the PDP-10, because complex arguments do not appear first in
the calling sequence (see Bulletin Vol 4, No 3, page 31). The first card
should be changed to read:

SUBROUTINE ZEIGEN(EIGVAL, EIGVEC, A, K, L, T, NVECT, ITER)

Also, the statement declaring EIGVAL and EIGVEC to be complex should
precede the statement dimensioning these arrays.

The following changes should be made to the TEST program:

(i)   Change calling sequence as described above
(ii) Replace the statement

110   FORMAT   (2A3, 11A6)

by

110   FORMAT   (2A3, 11A5)

Because of these changes, new PDP-10 decks and write-ups of EIGEN, ZEIGEN,
and TEST will soon be available from the Computer Centre. Their
classification numbers will be

EIGEN:	D4.569
ZEIGEN:	D4.570
TEST:	D4.570

Note that the new EIGEN deck incorporates the change

EP = 7.451E-9

mentioned in the old write-ups.

4. PLOTTING

It has been found that points apparently within the valid area for plotting
sometimes give the 'Plotter Coordinates out of bounds' message. This occurs
only in the immediate vicinity of the boundaries and appears to be caused
by rounding errors in the calculation of the pen position. The Centre is
currently working on this problem.

In the meantime it is suggested that users limit their plotting so that they do not attempt to use the area within 1/10" of any of the boundaries. A simple way of doing this would be to move the origin immediately after opening the plot file using the plot command

CALL PLOT ($\emptyset$.1, $\emptyset$.1, -3)

carefully controlling the pen movement at the boundaries in the positive X and Y directions.

5. NEW VERSIONS OF SYSTEMS PROGRAMS

During the next week, new versions of some systems programs will be implemented on the PDP-1$\emptyset$ in preparation for the release of the new Batch processing system. The programs involved are the Monitor, LOGIN, FINISH, command decoder and the printer symbiont. These new versions will not effect the present operation of the system.

6. AUSTRALIAN COMPUTER SOCIETY (ACS) OVERSEAS VISITORS PROGRAMME

The second distinguished visitor to be brought to Australia under the ACS Overseas Visitors Programme will be Professor Bernard A. Galler, Professor of Computer and Communication Sciences and Mathematics and Associate Director of the Computer Centre at the University of Michigan. Professor Galler has a wide background in computing as shown by the fact that he was President of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), 1968-1970, and a member, Board of Governors, American Federation of Information Processing Societies (AFIPS), 1968-1970. His publications include 'The Language of Computers',' A View of Programming Languages', and several articles on automatic programming and linear programming.

The Australian Post Office and IBM Australia have very generously agreed to make the arrangements for Professor Galler's Michigan Terminal System (MTS) demonstrations in Brisbane. The demonstration will involve use of IBM's 360/67 in Canberra and A.P.O. lines and modems.

Professor Galler will deliver a public lecture and conduct a one-day seminar this month.

LECTURE - Wednesday 28 July 8.00 p.m. The lecture will be entitled 'A view of programming languages' and will include a general review of presently available languages and possible future developments. Hawken Auditorium, The Institute of Engineers, 447 Upper Edward Street.

SEMINAR - Thursday 29 July 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Australian Institute of Management, Management House, Boundary and Rosa Streets, SPRING HILL. The general subject of this seminar will be 'A demonstration of the Michigan Terminal System'. Topics will include a discussion of some desirable properties of a general purpose timesharing system and of the operating characteristics of such a system. A feature of the seminar will be the demonstration of the system using IBM's 360/67 in Canberra.

There will be a fee of $1 for the lecture which includes supper and a nominal contribution to assist the Programme's expenses. For the seminar, the fee will be $11 for ACS members and $16 for others, including a buffet lunch and drinks at the conclusion of the day. Persons wishing to attend the seminar are requested to complete an application form available from the Honorary Secretary, ACS (qld Branch), G.P.O. Box 1484, BRISBANE.   4001.