

55 YEARS IN HPC: ONE WOMAN'S EXPERIENCES AND PERSPECTIVES

IN CONVERSATION WITH JEAN SHULER



WITH MARK MILLER MODERATING

FOR THE BEST PRACTICES FOR HPC SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS WEBINAR SERIES

NOVEMBER 10, 2021

1961-1965

- Biggest bug: Mariner 1 (\$152M)
- Best movie: The Invisible Boy
- Digits of Pi: 100,265
- Fastest: CDC-6600 (3 MFLOPS)





EMPLOYMENT AS A HUMAN COMPUTER



THE NEW
ATLANTIS

PROJECTS JOURNAL BLOGS BOOKS

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The Age of Female Computers

The burden of mathematics before machines

David Skinner

Today, mathematics and computer science often appear as the province of geniuses working at the very edge of human ability and imagination. Even as American high schools struggle to employ qualified math and science teachers, American popular culture has embraced math, science, and computers as a mystic realm of extraordinary intellectual power, even verging on madness. Movies

Review

Spring 2006

The Technological Condition

Math



The Computer Girls

BY LOIS MANDEL

A trainee gets \$8,000 a year . . . a girl "senior systems analyst" gets \$20,000—and up! Maybe it's time to investigate....

Ann Richardson, IBM systems engineer, designs a bridge via computer. Above (left) she checks her facts with fellow systems engineer, Marvin V. Fuchs. Right, she feeds facts into the computer. Below, Ann demonstrates on a viewing screen how her facts designed the bridge, and makes changes with a "light pen."

Twenty years ago, a girl could be a secretary, a school teacher . . . maybe a librarian, a social worker or a nurse. If she was really ambitious, she could go into the professions and compete with men . . . usually working harder and longer to earn less pay for the same job.

Now have come the big, dazzling computers—and a whole new kind of work for women: programming. Telling the miracle machines what to do and how to do it. Anything from predicting the weather to sending out billing notices from the local department store.

And if it doesn't sound like woman's work—well, it just is.

"I had this idea I'd be standing at a big machine and pressing buttons all day long," says a girl who programs for a Los Angeles bank. I couldn't have been further off the track. I figure out how the

computer can solve a problem, and then instruct the machine to do it."

"It's just like planning a dinner," explains Dr. Grace Hopper, now a staff scientist in systems programming for Univac. (She helped develop the first electronic digital computer, the Eniac, in 1946.) "You have to plan ahead and schedule everything so it's ready when you need it. Programming requires patience and the ability to handle detail. Women are 'naturals' at computer programming."

What she's talking about is *aptitude*—the one most important quality a girl needs to become a programmer. She also needs a keen, logical mind. And if that zeroes out the old Billie Burke-Gracie Allen image of femininity, it's about time, because this is the age of the Computer Girls. There are twenty thousand of them in the United (cont. on page 54)



Photos by Henry Grossman, Dress by Gina Charles.



NASA Langley, Data Reduction Center, 1960s

EXAMPLE CALCULATIONS AND HAND DRAWN PLOTS

20

Case A, eastward launch.- For case A, eastward launch, the given launch position is $\psi_1=28.50^\circ$ N., $\lambda_1=279.45^\circ$ E.; the selected position is $\psi_2=34.00^\circ$ N., $\lambda_2=241.00^\circ$ E.; the number of orbital passes n is 3; and the equivalent selected longitude λ_{2e} is 309.689° E. The values of the first approximations are

$$[t(\theta_{2e}) - t(\theta_1)] \approx 7.693$$

$$\Delta\lambda_{1-2e} = 32.162$$

$$\theta_{2e} = 51.89$$

$$t(\theta_{2e}) = 12.702$$

$$\psi_1 = 70.468$$

$$i = 34.081$$

21

Parameter	2d iteration	3d iteration	4th iteration
$t(\theta_{2e}) - t(\theta_1)$	6.860	6.603	6.594
$\Delta\lambda_{1-2e}$	30.926	30.862	30.859
θ_{2e}	50.866	50.809	50.806
$t(\theta_{2e})$	12.445	12.436	12.436

The final values are as follows:

$$\psi_1 = 70.541$$

$$i = 34.043$$

$$(\lambda_N)_{ref} = 225.971$$

$$\omega = 34.497$$

18

CONFIDENTIAL

NACA RM H58A30

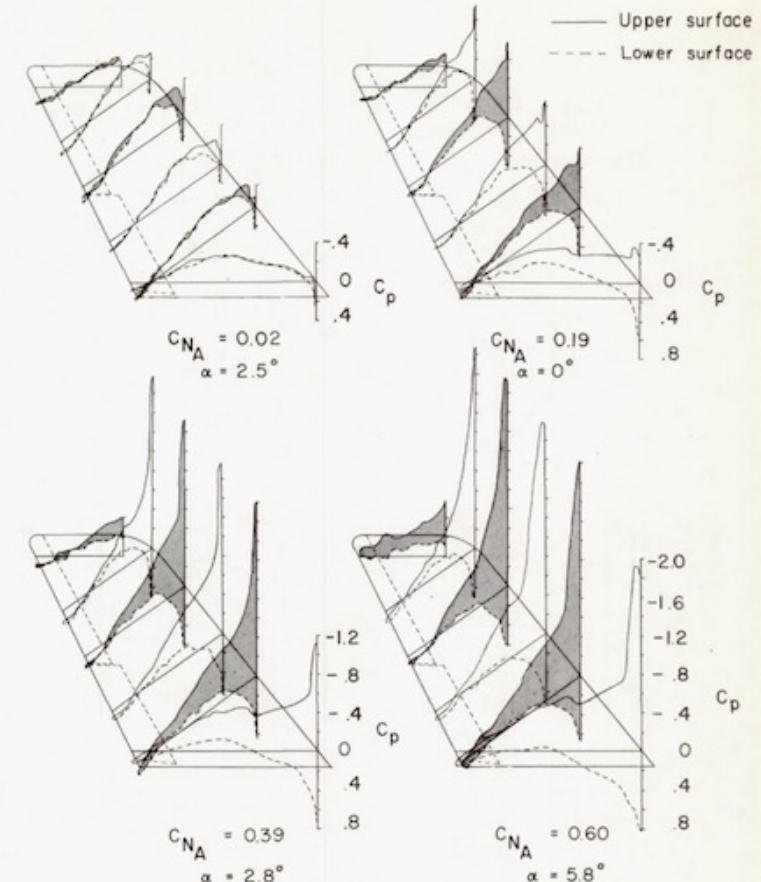
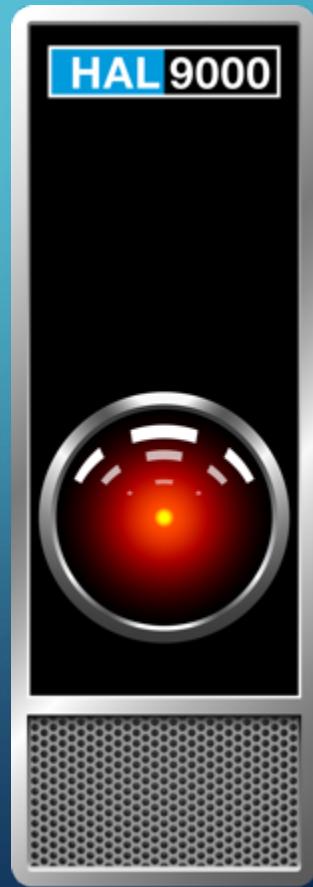
(a) $M \approx 0.73$.

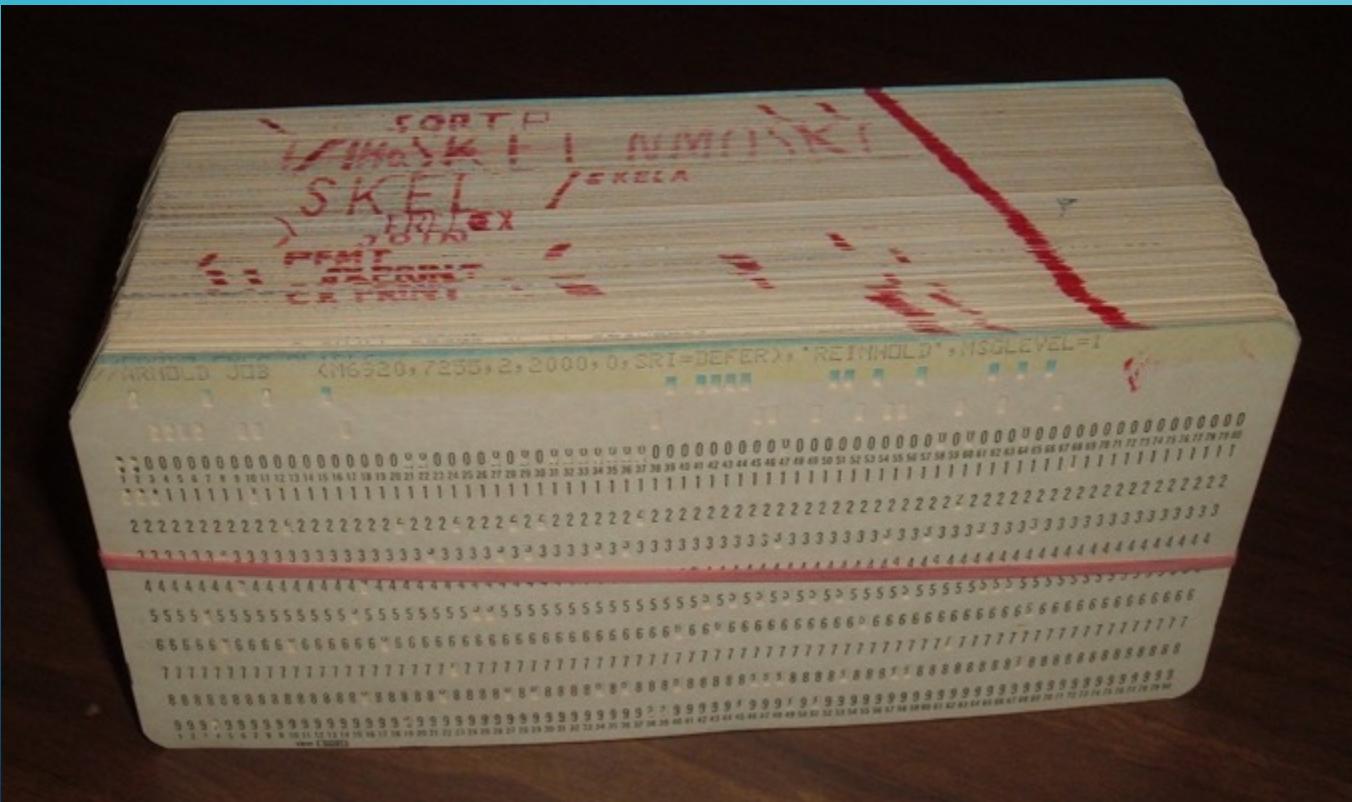
Figure 4.- Wing plan views showing the effect of lift on the D-558-II wing pressure distributions at representative Mach numbers.

1966-1970

- Biggest bug: Gemini 5 splashdown miss
- Best movie: 2001 A Space Odyssey
- Digits of Pi: 500,000
- Fastest: CDC-7600 (30 MFLOPS)



MB Associates, San Ramon, CA.



March 14, 1967

G. P. SORENSEN
RADAR REFLECTOR ROCKET
Filed Feb. 4, 1963

3,308,759



FIG. 3.

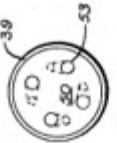


FIG. 4.

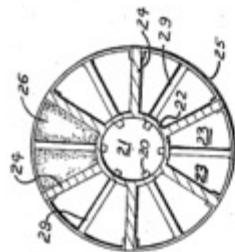


FIG. 2.

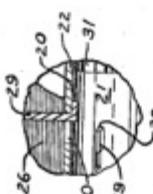
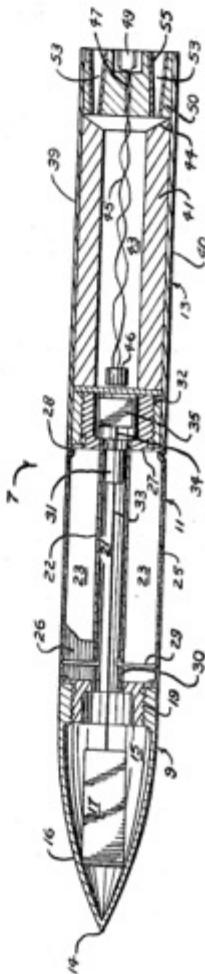
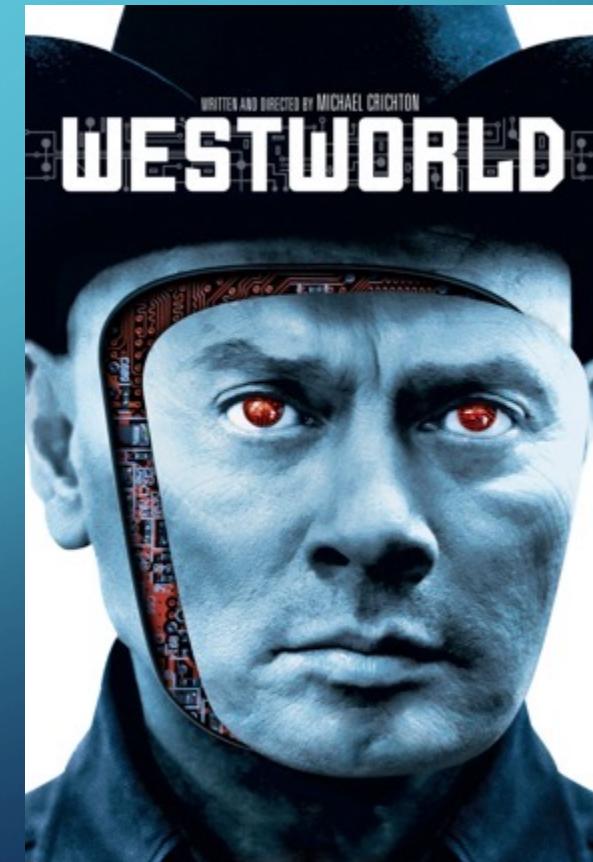
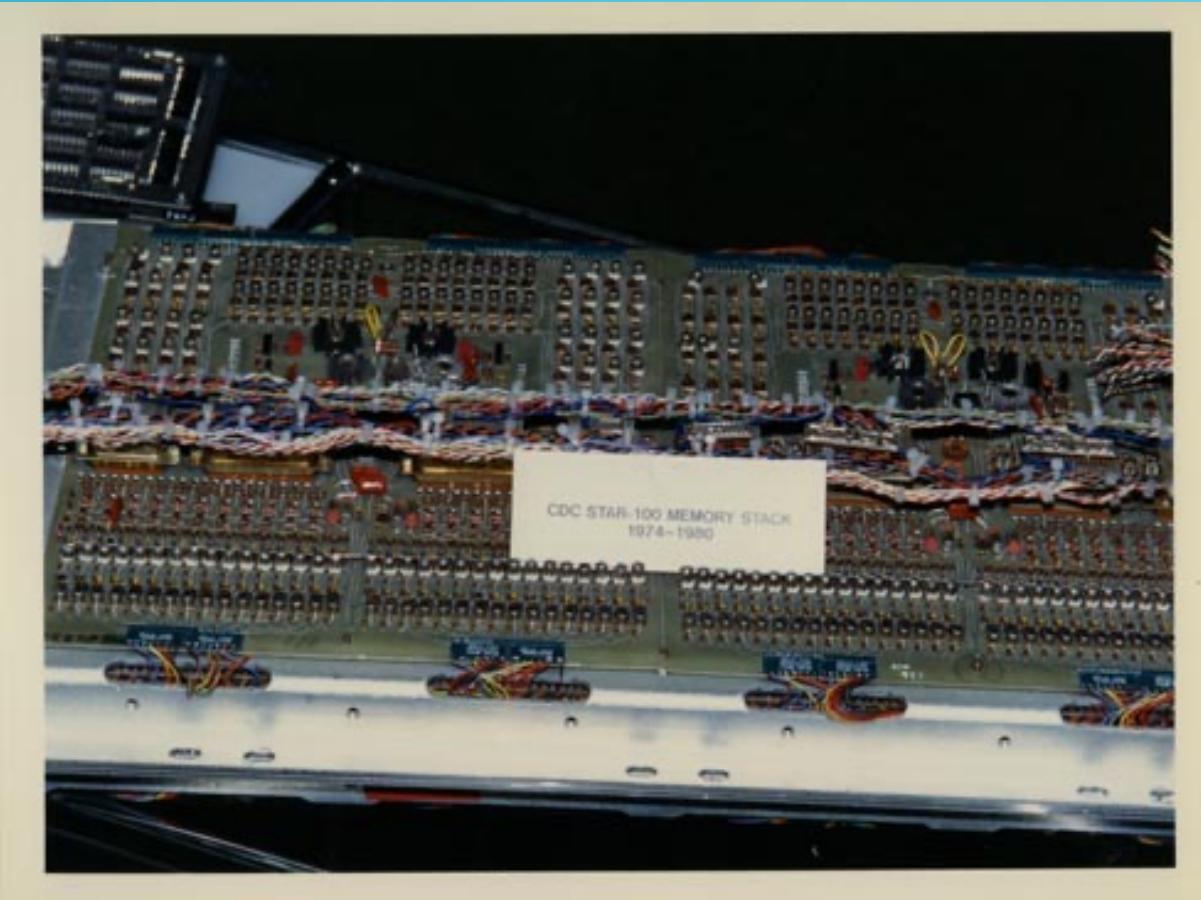


FIG. 5.



1971-1975

- Biggest bug: 12 bit dates/DEC system 10
- Best movie: West World
- Digits of Pi: 1,001,250
- Fastest: CDC-STAR (100 MFLOPS)



JEAN JOINS LAWRENCE RADIATION LAB (LRL)

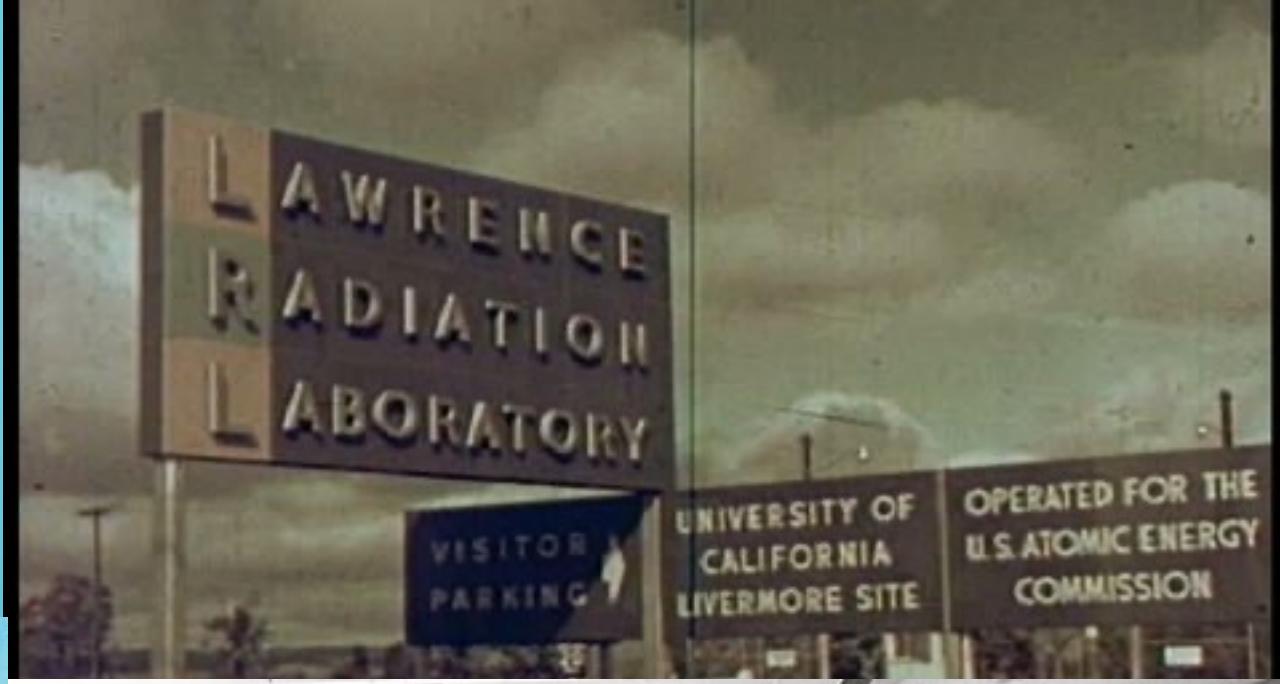
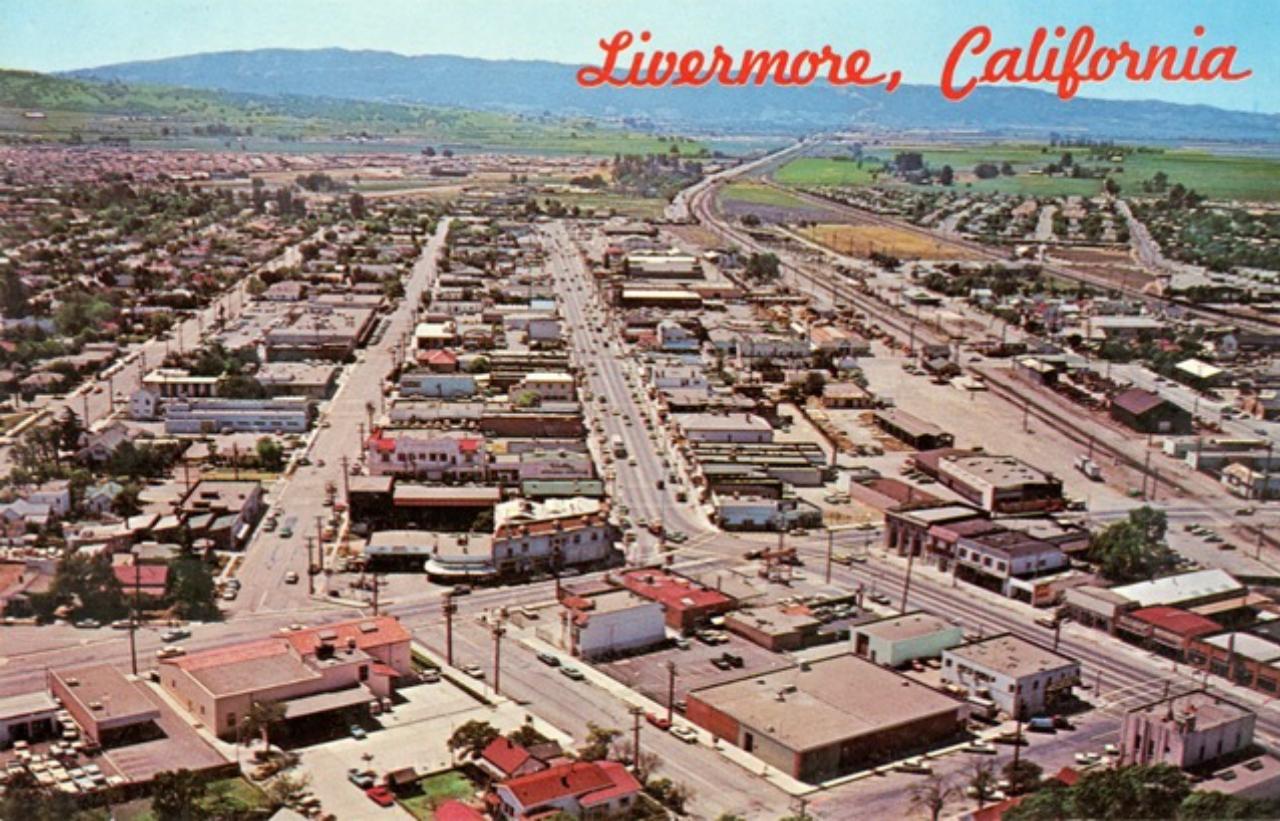
- Ban on hiring wives lifted in 1972
- Jean's first badge photo...



LRL (and Sandia Livermore) Site from Air



Livermore, California



“PRINTER TESTS” AND RACIER STUFF (OFTEN PINNED UP IN OFFICES)



Like many similar organizations, LLNL hosted "beauty" pictures of its female workforce members.

The Nevada Test Site (NTS) wanted to show it could compete with LLNL.

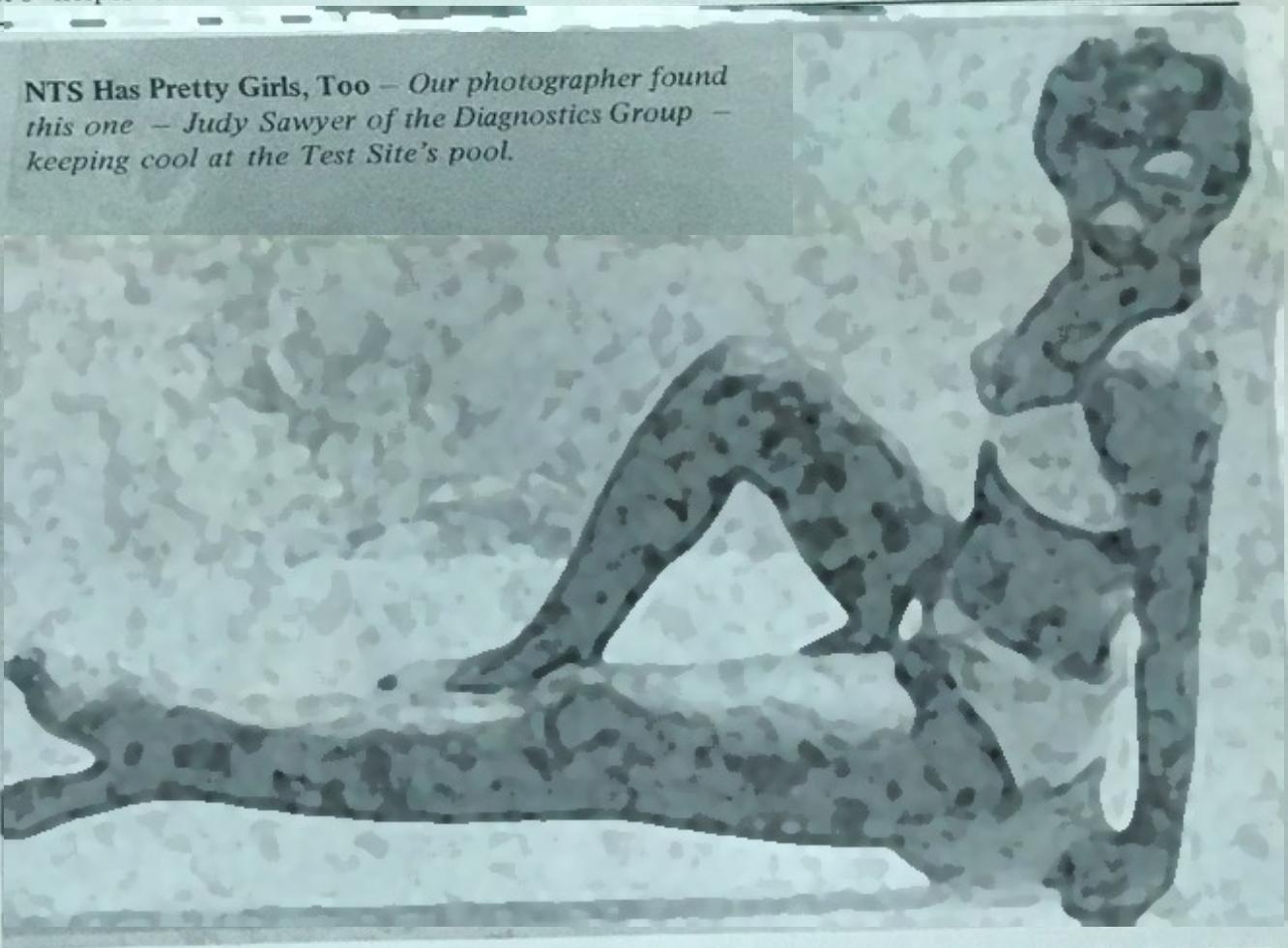
LLNL also had a "dress code" for women. Was there any for men?

ing Dept.

NEWSLINE

EDITOR: Ken Rhodie
PRODUCTION: Don Cowden
PHOTOGRAPHERS: Howard Alford,

NTS Has Pretty Girls, Too — Our photographer found this one — Judy Sawyer of the Diagnostics Group — keeping cool at the Test Site's pool.



LAWRENCE LIVERMORE LABORATORY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LIVERMORE CA. 94550

LLNL NEWSLINE, 1971

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
1.7¢ PAID
San Leandro, Ca.
Permit No. 104

BEGININGS OF NERSC

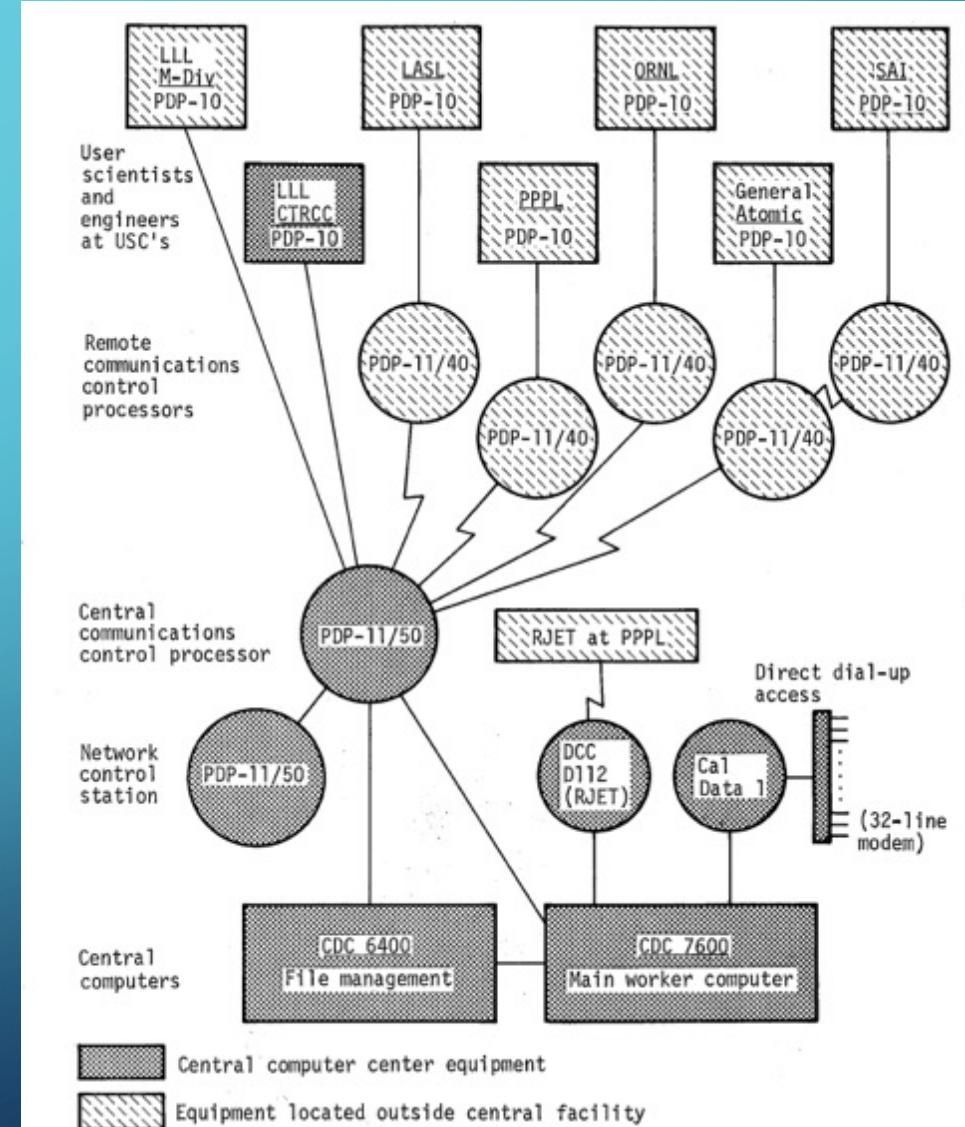
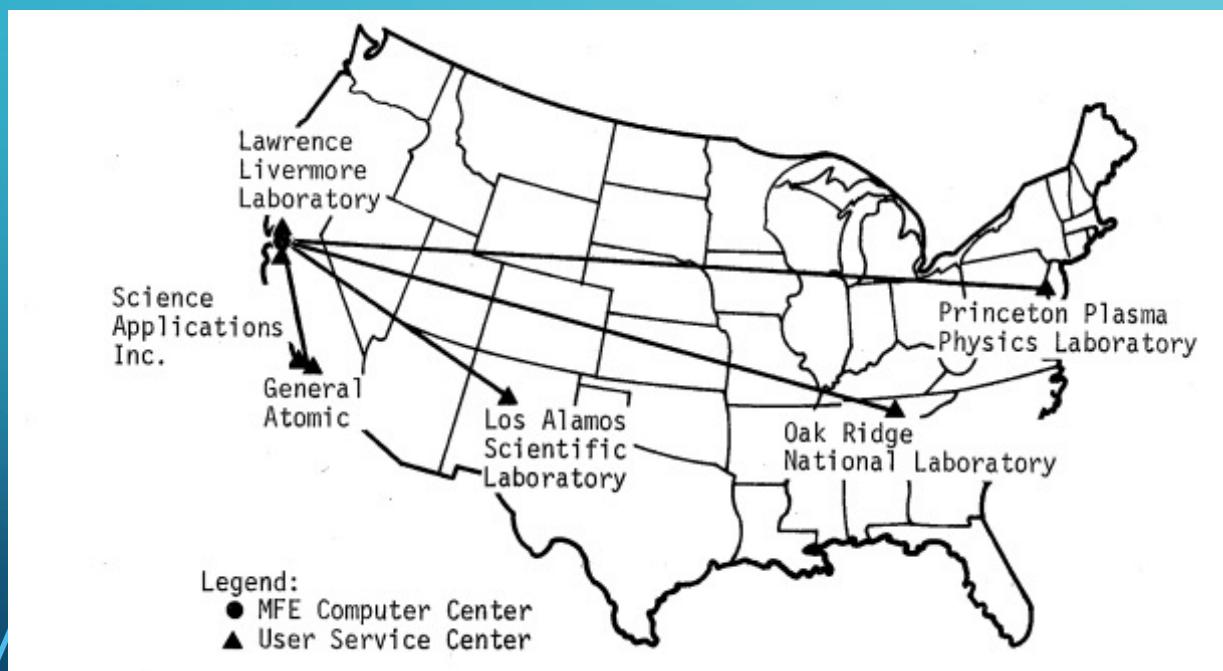
- Controlled Thermonuclear Research Computer Center
- National Magnetic Fusion Energy Computer Center
- National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center



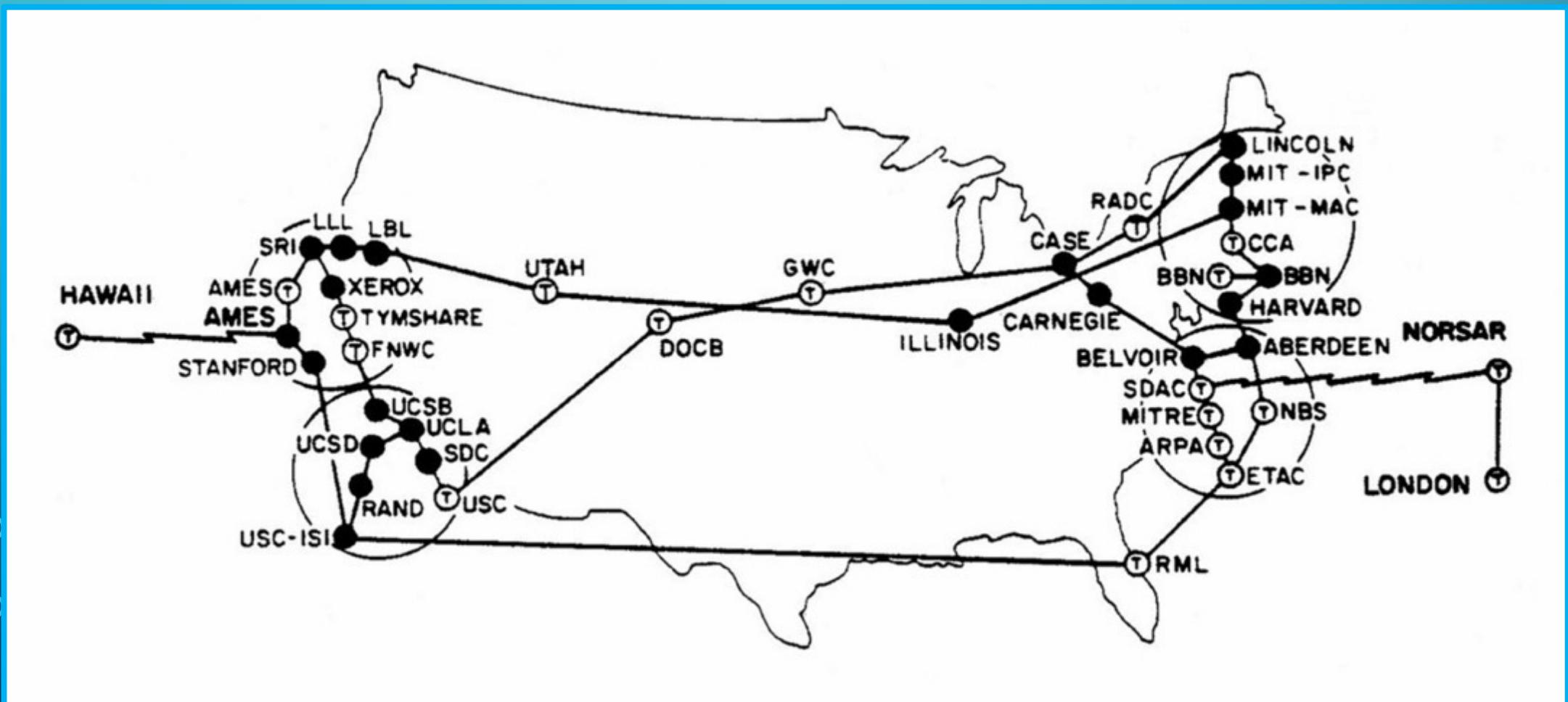
AN EARLY, HARD COPY (NOT EMAIL) MEMO FROM JEAN CALLED AN “OCTOGRAM”

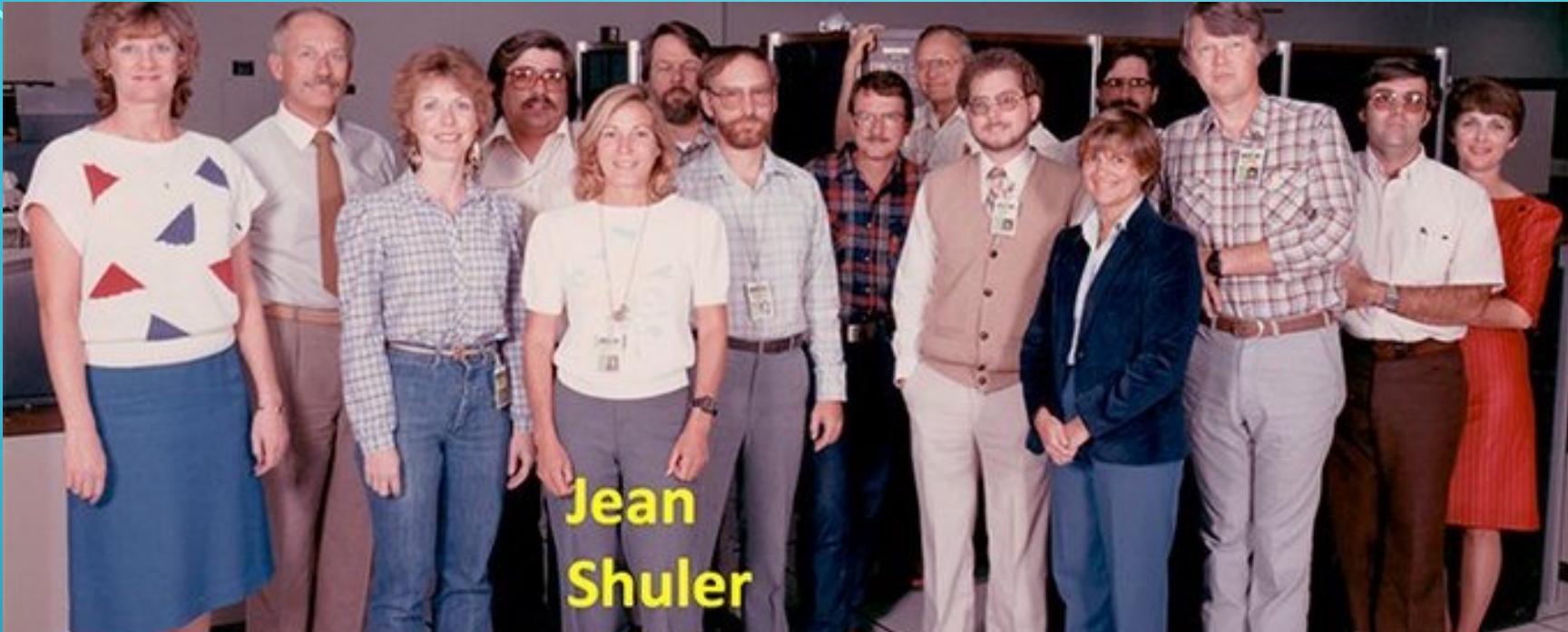
OCTOPU COMMUNIQUE		NO 1049
COMPUTATION DEPARTMENT		
August 5, 1975		
To:	All CDC 6600 (G-machine) Users	
From:	Jean Shuler	
Subject:	Purging of Files From PACKRAT Disks	
Reference:	Utility Routine PACKRAT, UR-338 (March 21, 1974)	
<p>The PACKRAT disks are completely full. At the moment, PACKRAT is so overloaded that new files cannot be stored in the system. You can help by destroying all unneeded PACKRAT files.</p> <p>Unless the overloaded condition is relieved by voluntary destruction of unwanted files, a PACKRAT file purge will be necessary. Files that have not been accessed for a period of 45 days will be destroyed. If you have files that are valuable but rarely used, you should store them on tape and delete them from PACKRAT.</p>		
<p>Jean Shuler, Ext. 3286 CTR Computer Center</p>		
GPL/qed		

BEGINNINGS OF MFENET

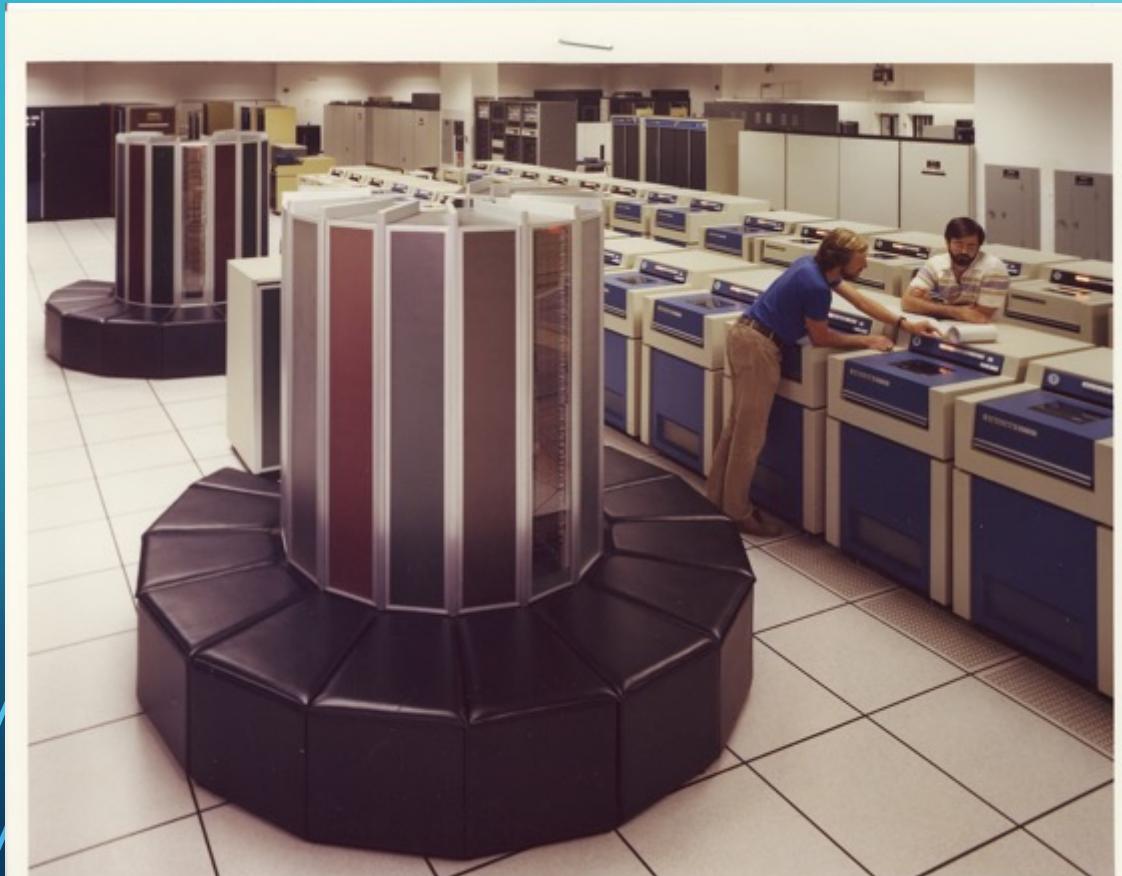


BEGINNINGS OF ARPANET

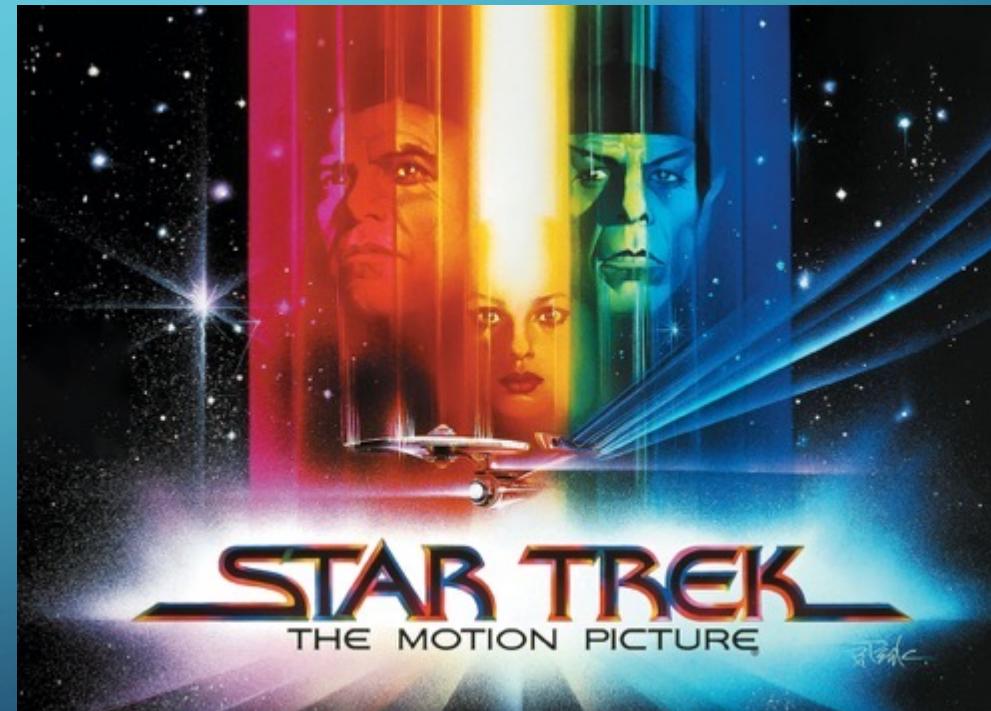




1976-1980



- Biggest bug: Vancouver SE index truncation
- Best movie: Star Trek Motion Picture (Vger)
- Digits of Pi: 2,000,036
- Fastest: Cray 1 (160 MFLOPS)



TENTACLE

SEPTEMBER 1981

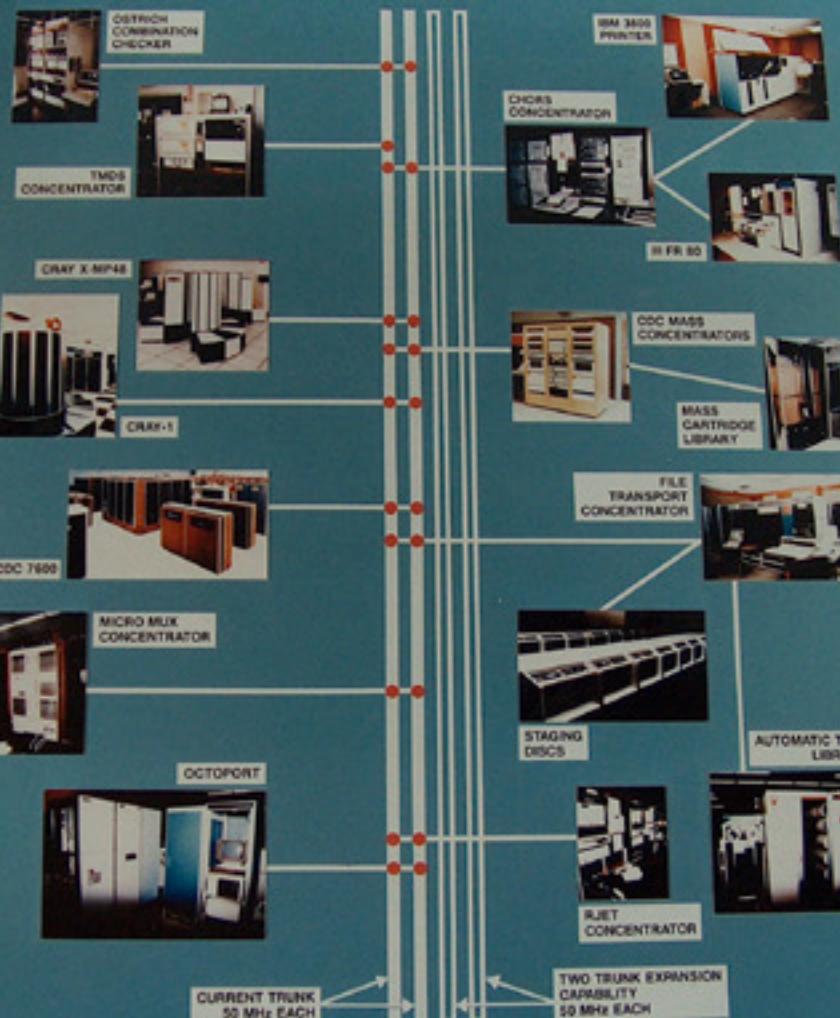
Volume 1 Number 2



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THE OCTOPUS NETWORK



102631275

EXCERPTS FROM TENTACLE

Systems and Software News

Arrays

Both Vax Fortran and LRLTRAN have the array-processing capabilities of the 1978 Fortran standard. Each permits you to declare arrays of any of its data types, including its structures. This means that although Vax Fortran permits 8-bit byte arrays, it does not permit arbitrarily sized byte arrays; nor does it permit bit arrays.

Initial values

In Vax Fortran, initial values may be specified for data objects in the object declaration statement. LRLTRAN does not provide this. Both languages provide a separate DATA statement for specifying initial values.

Strong typing

Both languages support the IMPLICIT NONE statement. This statement is used to force an error message whenever a variable is encountered that is not explicitly typed.

Is portable code possible?

The nonstandard features that are available in the same way in both Vax Fortran and LRLTRAN are few:

- Long names with underscores permitted
- Use of ! for comments
- IMPLICIT NONE

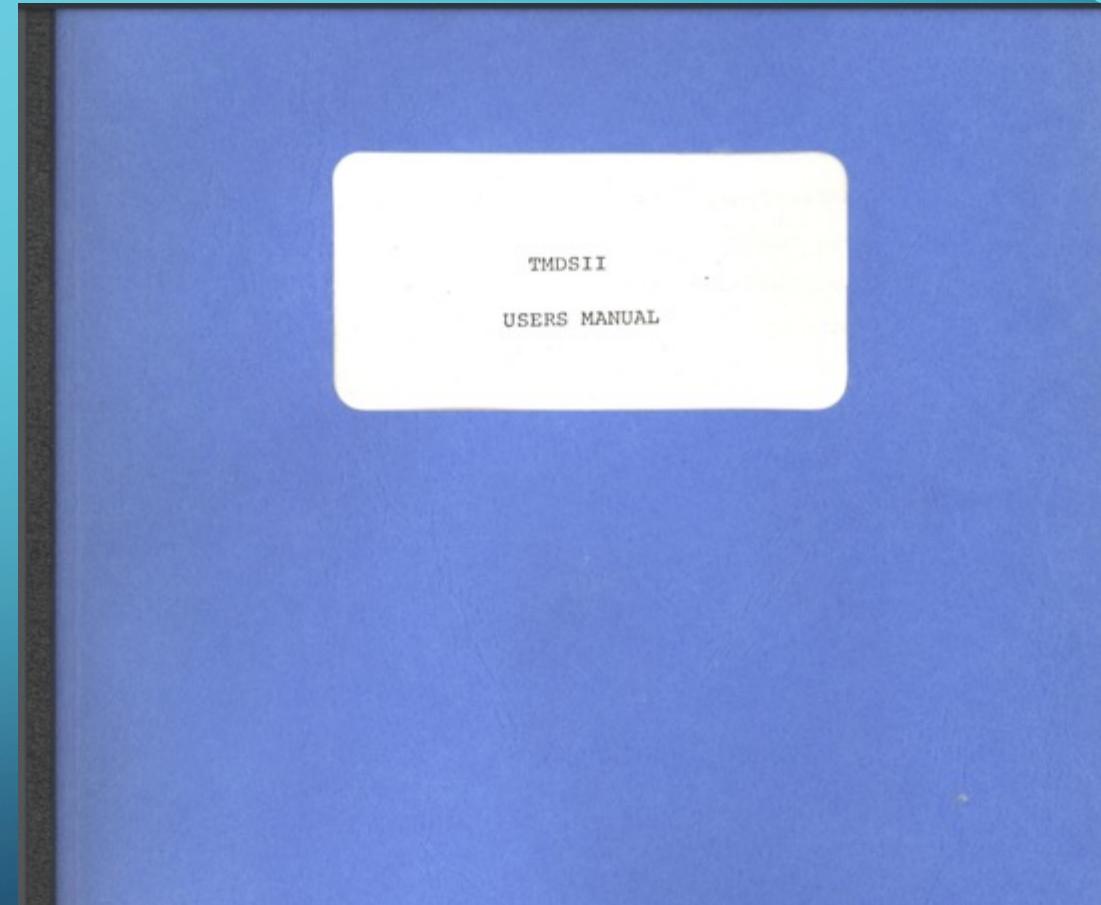
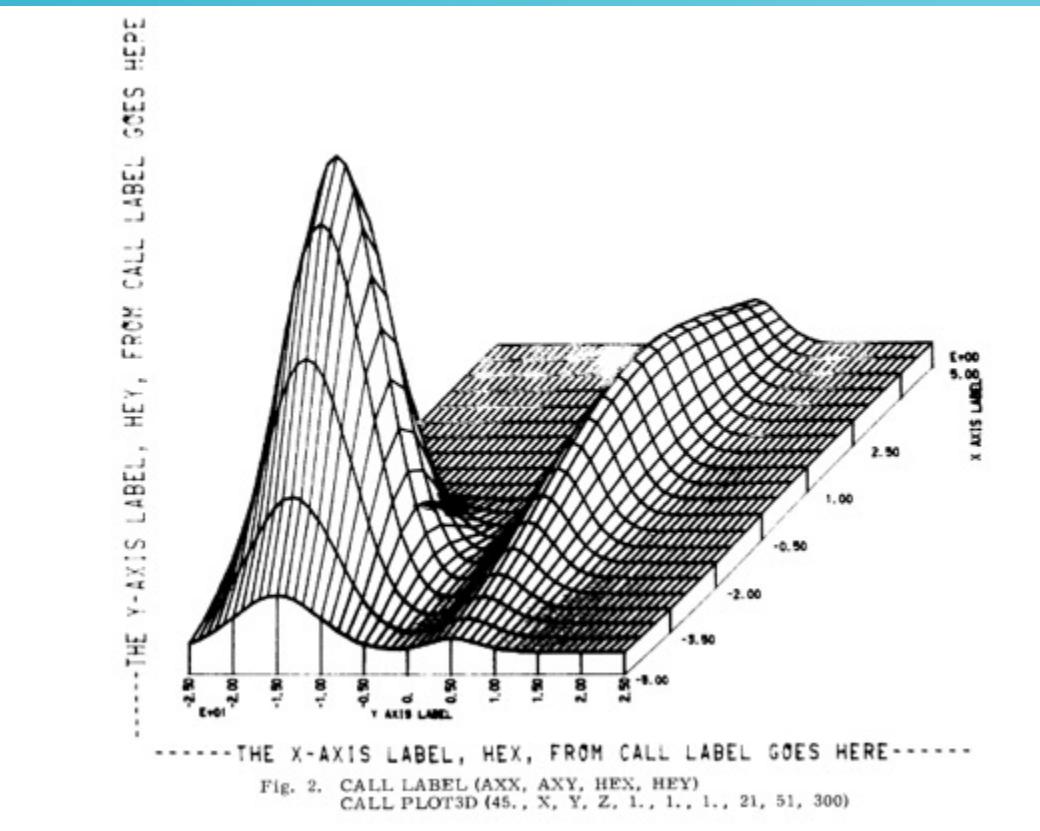
Features that are similar but require some translation are:

- DO END DO
- NAMELIST
- INCLUDE / USE without arguments
- Minimal dynamic storage
- Bit manipulation
- Octal / hexadecimal data
- Structures

The closer a code is to standard Fortran, the better chance it has for acceptability in more than one environment.

Screenshot

EARLY GRAPHICS SYSTEMS



TMDS AND TEK4014



1980 5.5 EARTHQUAKE



1981-1985



- Biggest bug: Super Mario Minus World
- Best movie: Tron (filmed @ LLNL)
- Digits of Pi: 17,526,200
- Fastest: Cray 2 (1.5 GFLOPS)



SUPERKIDS...AN EARLY STEAM EFFORT

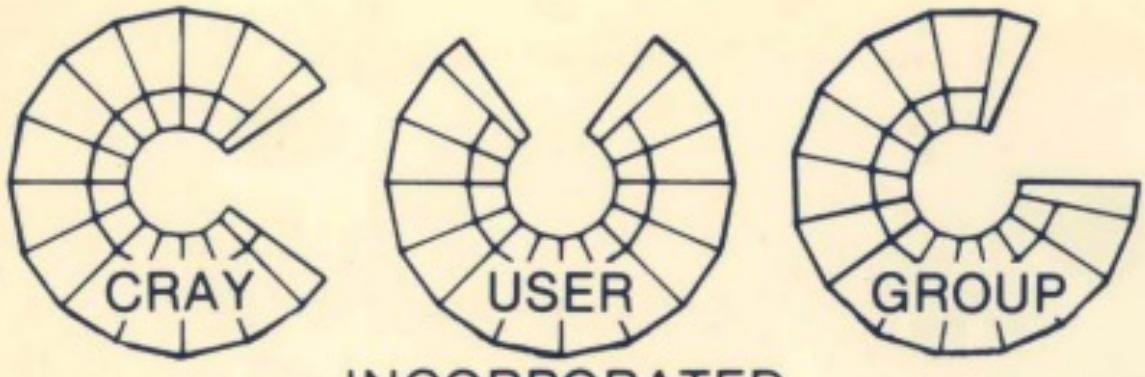


I was just 18 and I missed my high school graduation to come here, and it set my whole career in motion - Mike Collette



USER SUPPORT SERVICES





INCORPORATED

CRAY

USER

GROUP



CUUG
Cray User Group

1986-1990



- Biggest bug: USSR Phobos 1
- Best movie: Terminator (Skynet)
- Digits of Pi: 1,073,740,799
- Fastest: Fujitsu VP2600/10 (4 GFLOPS)





1990

FIRST MASSIVELY PARALLEL RESOURCE

LLNL acquired its first substantial onsite massively parallel resource from the MCPI: a 64-node BBN-ACI TC-2000 machine (later upgraded to 128 node). By 1992, positive results were being achieved in diverse areas, such as particle physics simulation.

1991-1995



- Biggest bug: ESA Ariane 5 Truncation (\$1B)
- Best movie: Terminator 2 (Skynet)
- Digits of Pi: 6,442,450,000
- Fastest: Paragon XP/S-40 (143 GFLOPS)

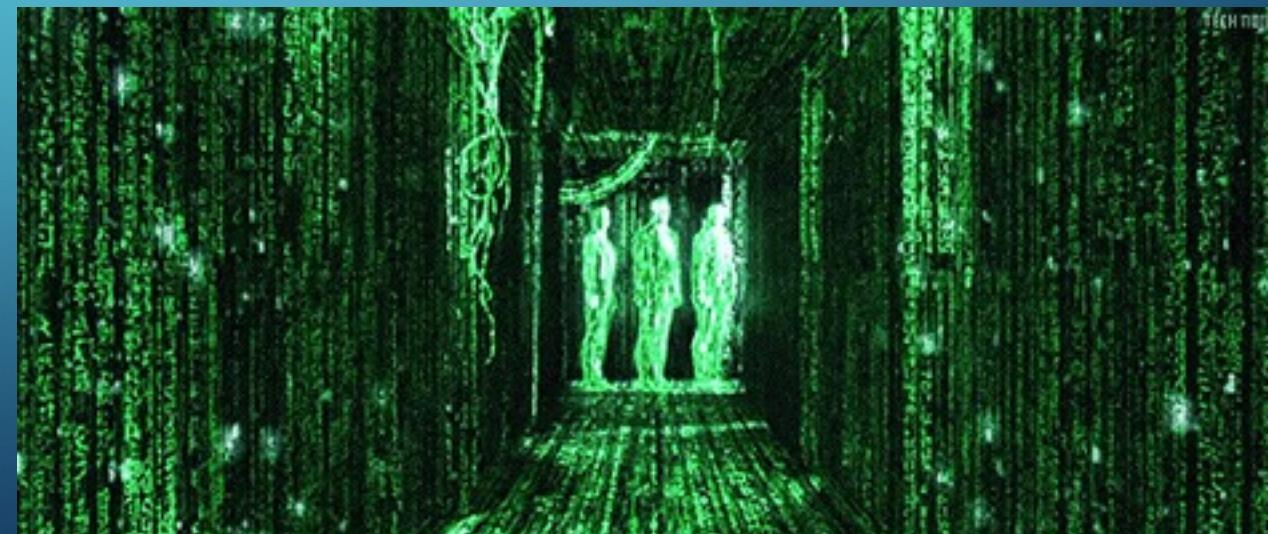
MEIKO CS-2



1996-2000



- Biggest bug: USS Yorktown div-by-0
- Best movie: The Matrix
- Digits of Pi: 206,158,430,000
- Fastest: ASCI Red (1.06 TFLOPS)



POWERWALL GRAPHICS



2001-2005



- Biggest bug: GE XA/21 Blackout
- Best movie: I, Robot
- Digits of Pi: 1,241,100,000,000
- Fastest: IBM BG/L (280 TFLOPS)



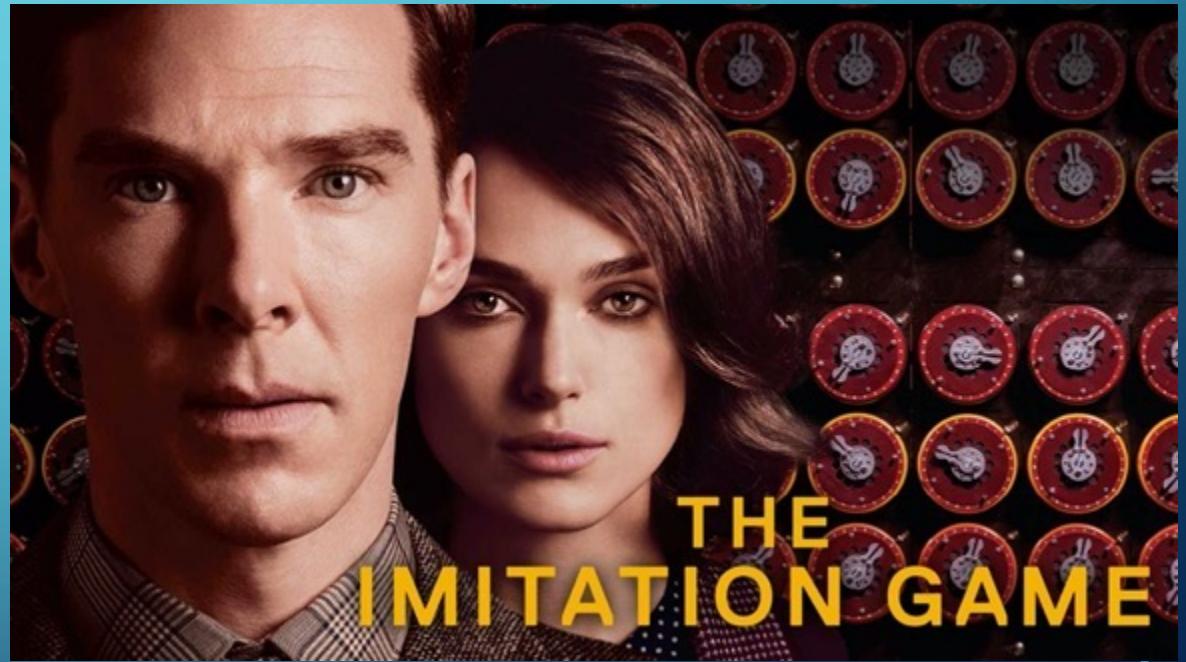
2006-2010

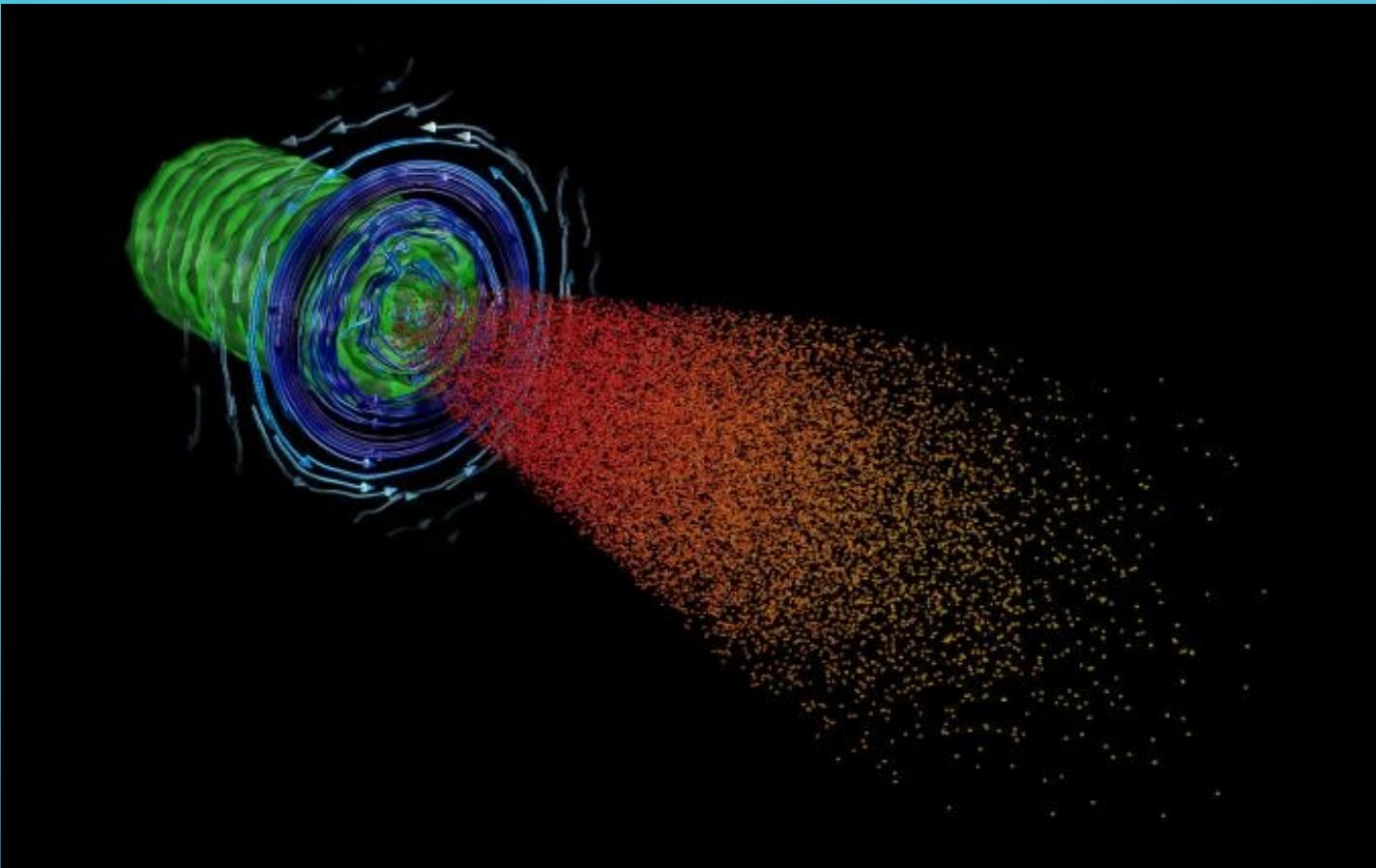


- Biggest bug: Google's Mal-Site Warning
- Best movie: Wall-E
- Digits of Pi: 5,000,000,000,000
- Fastest: Tianhe-1A (2.57 PFLOPS, China)

2011-2015

- Biggest bug: HeartBleed
- Best movie: Imitation Game
- Digits of Pi: 13,300,000,000,000
- Fastest: Tianhe-2 (33 PFLOPS, China)





2016-PRESENT



- Biggest bug: Boeing 737-Max MCAS
- Best movie: Hidden Figures
- Digits of Pi: 62,831,853,071,796
- Fastest: IBM AC922 (146 PFLOPS, Summit)



EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS



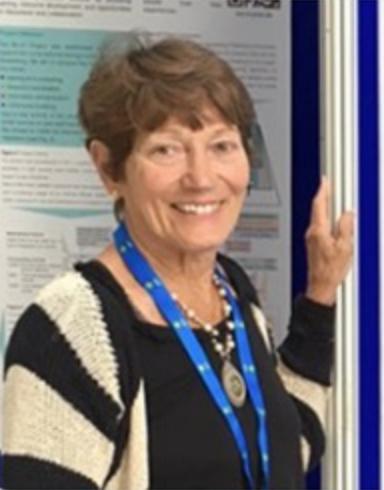
SUPERCOMPUTING PRESENCE



[←](#) **Tweet**

 **LLNL Computing**
@Livermore_Comp

...
Workforce Mgr & **#HPC** Tech Consultant [@JeanShuler](#) staffs the LC Hotline, sets up training on our machines, & schedules presentations for staff/users. At LLNL since 1972, she also works with our Cluster Engineering Academy interns. **#WomenInHPC #WeAreHPC** careers-llnl.ttcportals.com/jobs/search?q=...


I'm a huge supporter of helping young girls in their STEM careers. It's key to job creation and innovation in the workplace, especially at LLNL.
—*Jean Shuler*

9:03 AM · Sep 21, 2020 · TweetDeck

The winners of last week's HOME Campaign

Skaters

1st place male, Patrick Chain, 7:30
1st place female, Tiffany Rose, 8:20
1st place male master, Chuck McGregor, 7:15
1st place female master, (N/A)

Swimmers

1st place male, Mike Bonner, 10:08
1st place female, Kelly Fedel, 11:45
1st place male master, Alek Shestakov, 10:31
1st place female master, Brynn Bollinger, 16:31

Runners

1st place male, Trevor Willey, 8:57
1st place female, Tara Carreira, 11:29
1st place male master, Fred Mahler, 10:04
1st place female master, **Jean Shuler, 14:09**

Site300 Runners

1st place male, Stevan Mays, 12:51

Costumes

Most Humorous: Deviled Egg: Stacey Roberts-Ohr, Math/Science Network
Most Colorful: Uncle Sam: Tom Altenbach

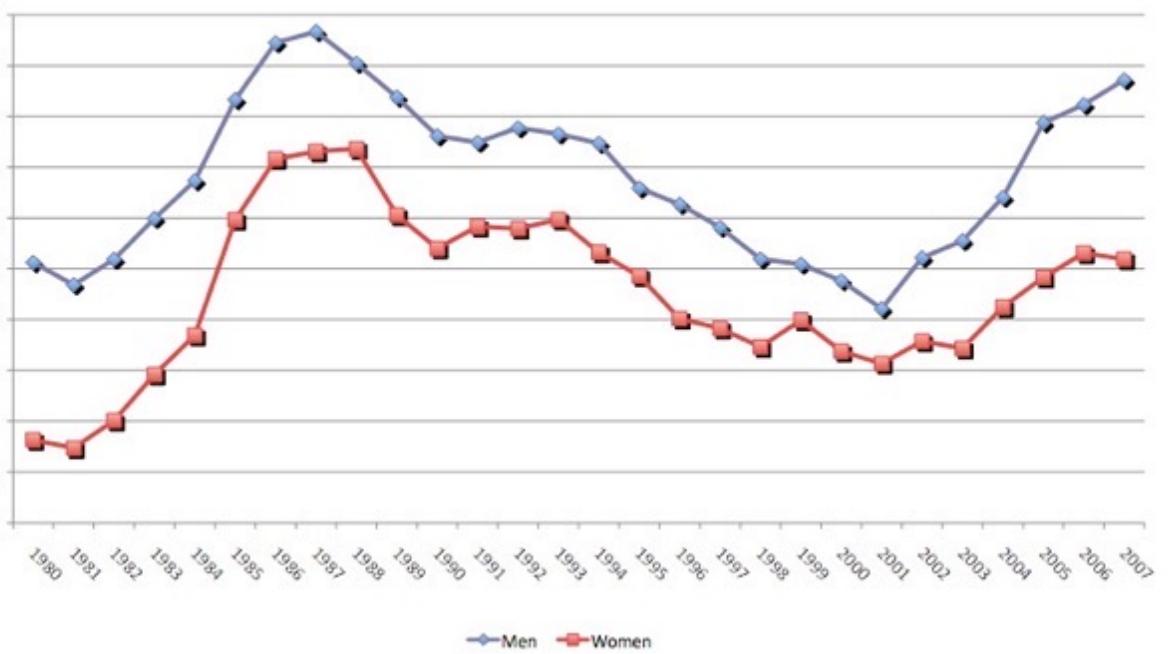
Most Creative: Rosie the Riveters: Michele Bianchini-Gunn
Kelly Braswell
Janet Conrad
Ginny Dance-Rios
Bonnie Pitrowski

Most Patriotic: Betsy Ross: Sue Steelman

Best-Multi-person: American Flag: Margie Altenbach
Sherry Christensen
Wendy Dossey
Mary Gualco
Chris Johnson
Tencia Leon

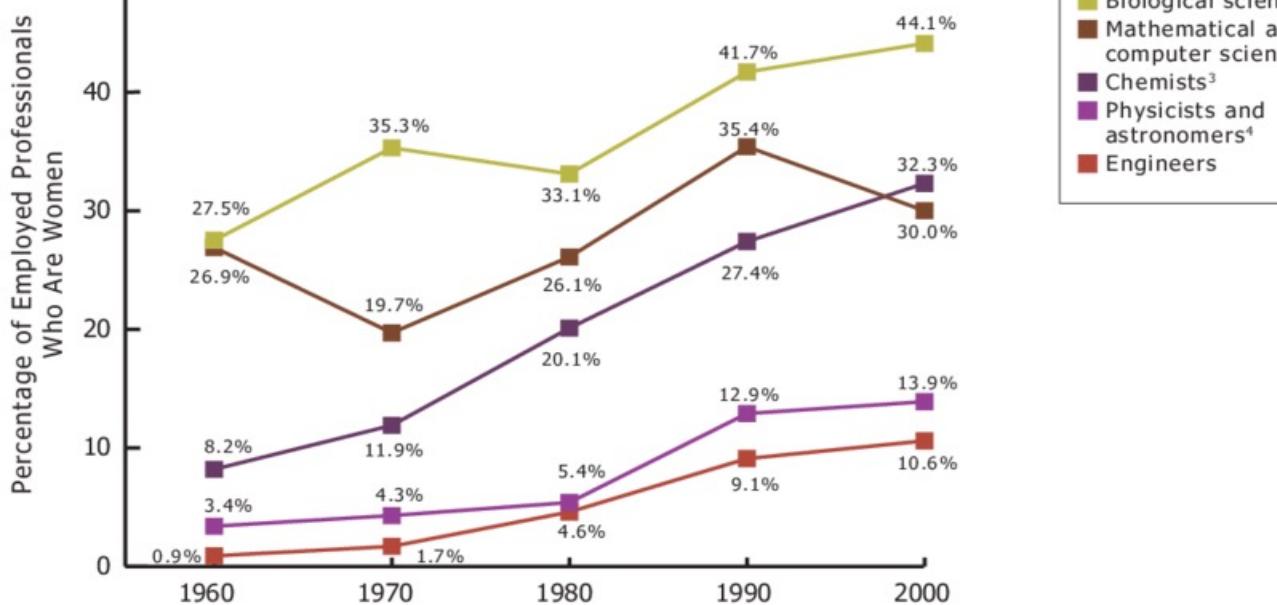
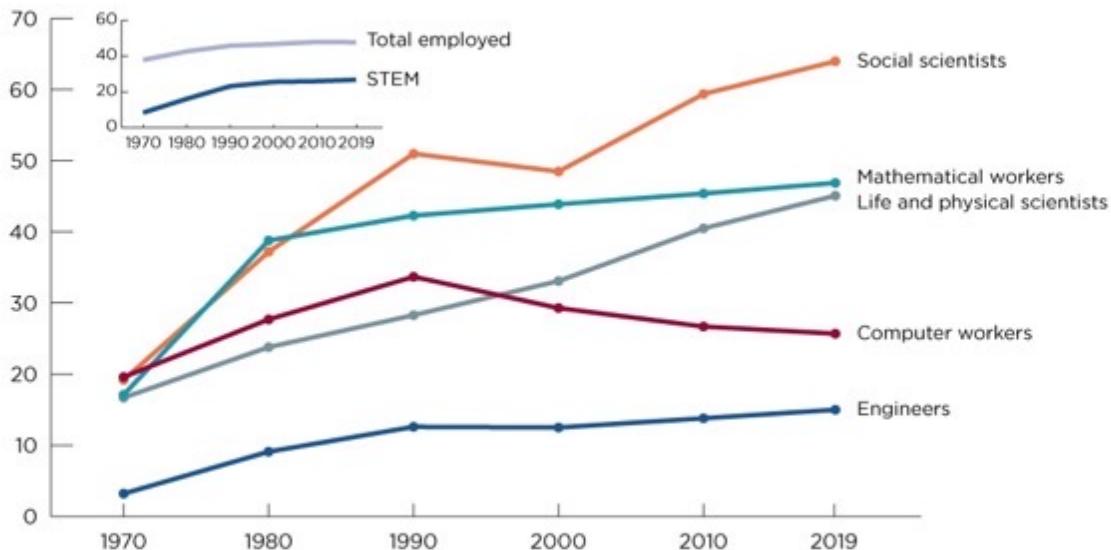


Math majors by Gender



Percentage of Women in STEM Jobs: 1970-2019

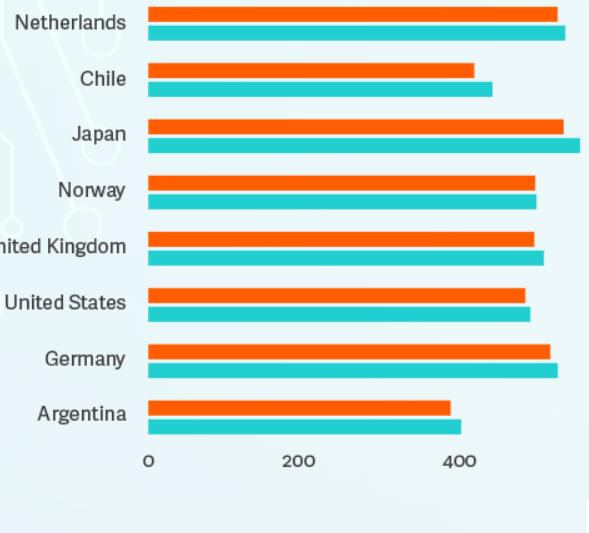
(Civilian employed, 16 years and over)



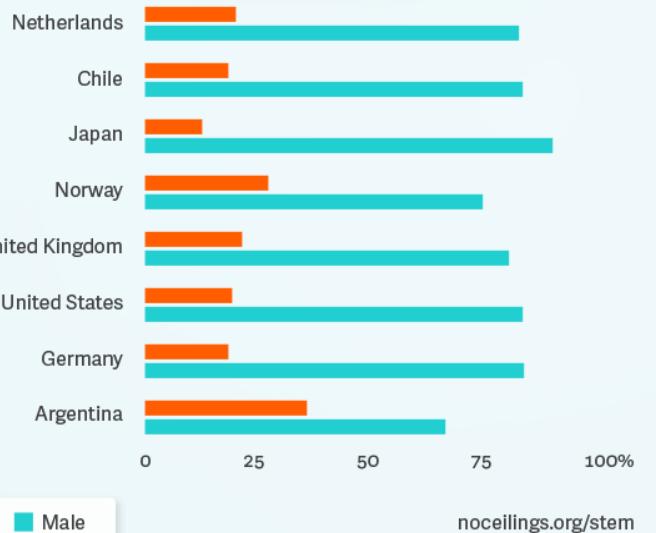
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 Censuses; 2010 and 2019 American Community Surveys, 1-Year Estimates.

Math

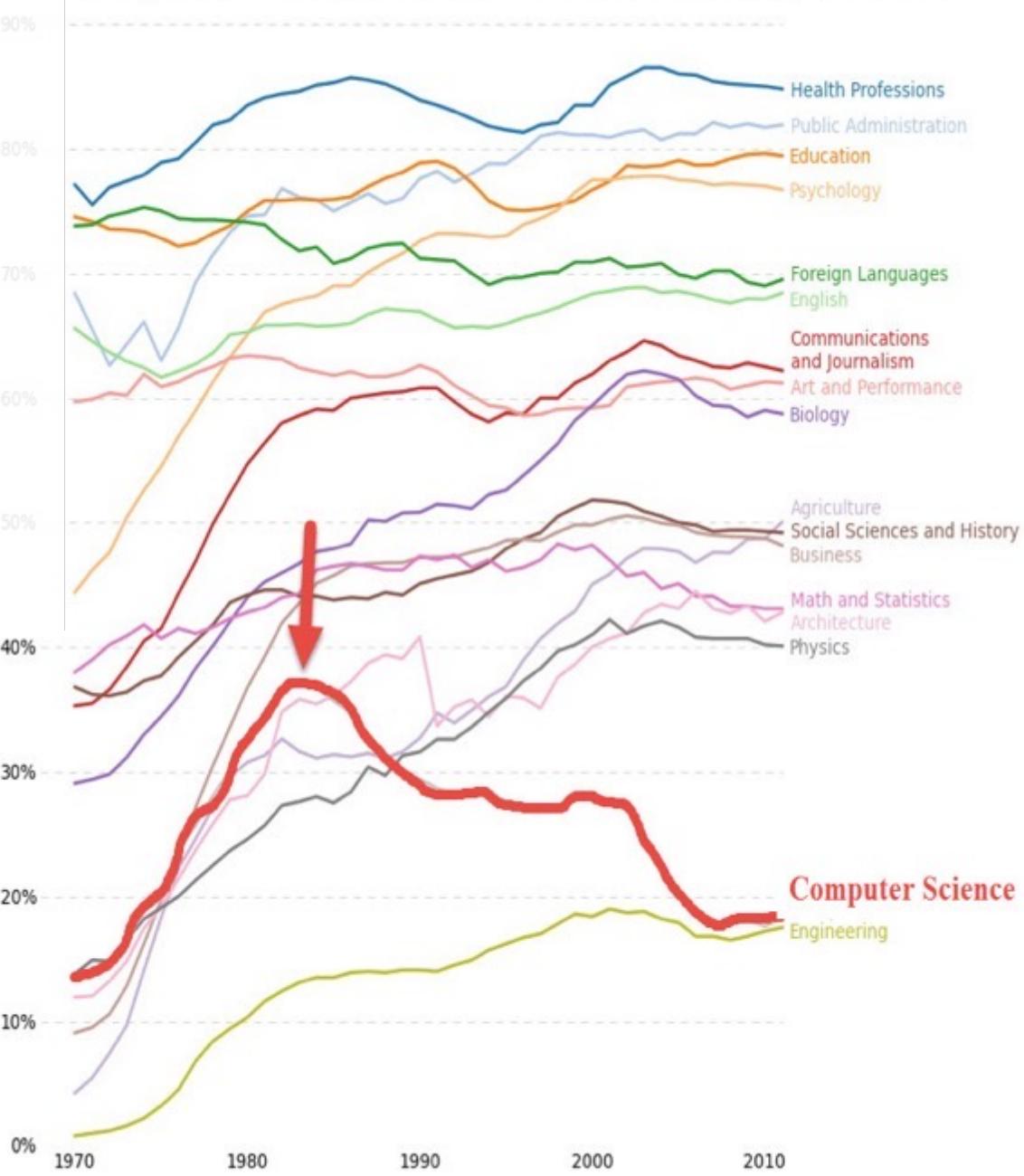
Equal Abilities
PISA math scores, 2012



Dissimilar Pathways
Share of university engineering, manufacturing, and construction graduates, 2010



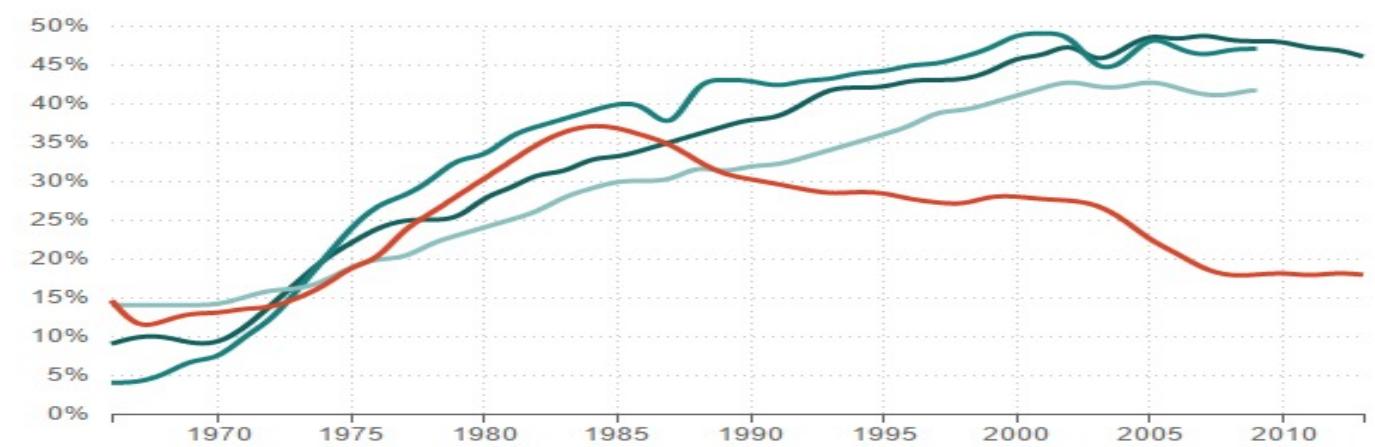
Percentage of Bachelor's degrees conferred to women in the U.S.A., by major (1970-2012)



What Happened To Women In Computer Science?

% Of Women Majors, By Field

Medical School Law School Physical Sciences Computer science



Source: National Science Foundation, American Bar Association, American Association of Medical Colleges
Credit: Quoctrung Bui/NPR

Data source: nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/2013menu_tables.asp

Author: Randy Olson (randalolson.com / @randal_olson)

Note: Some majors are missing because the historical data is not available for them