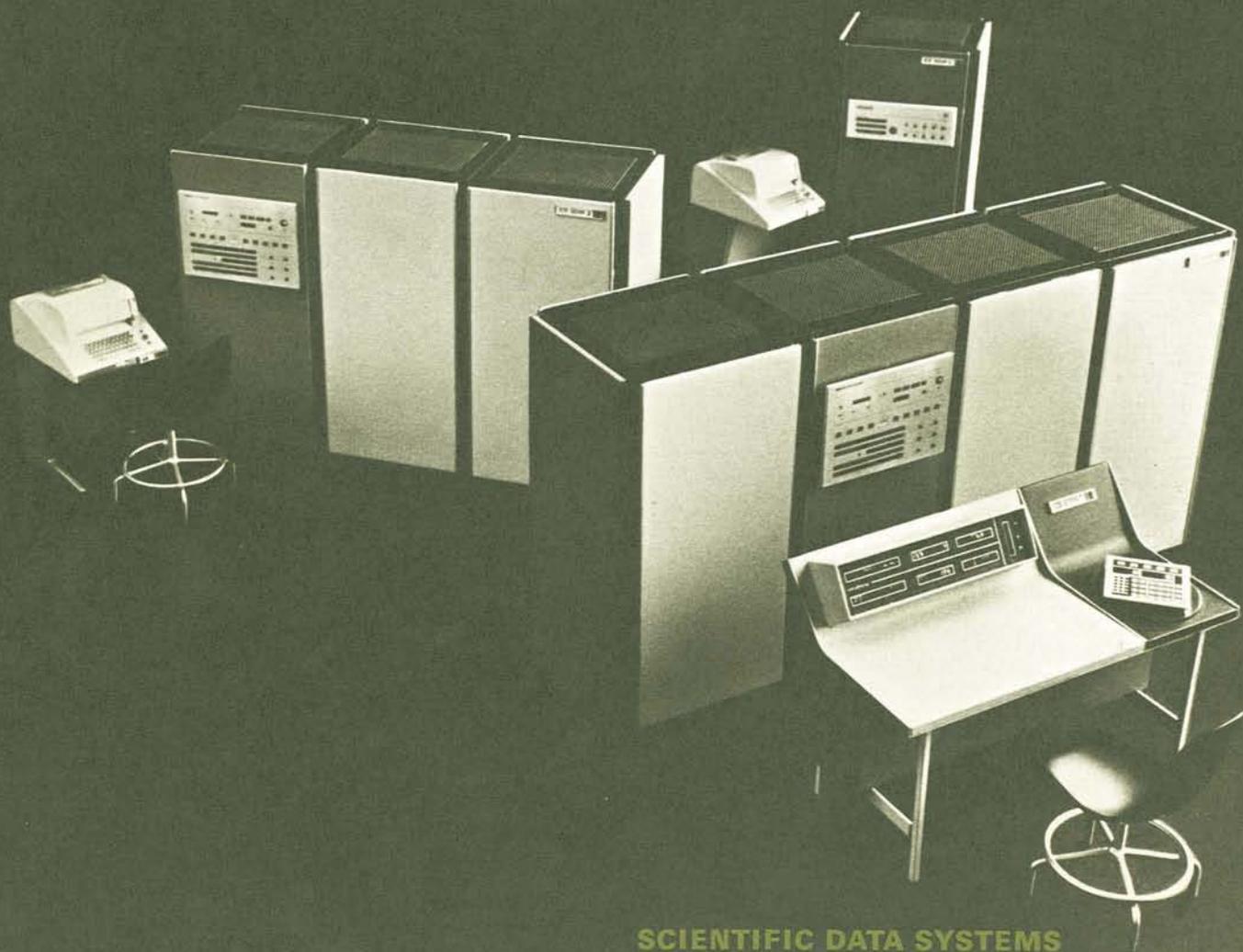
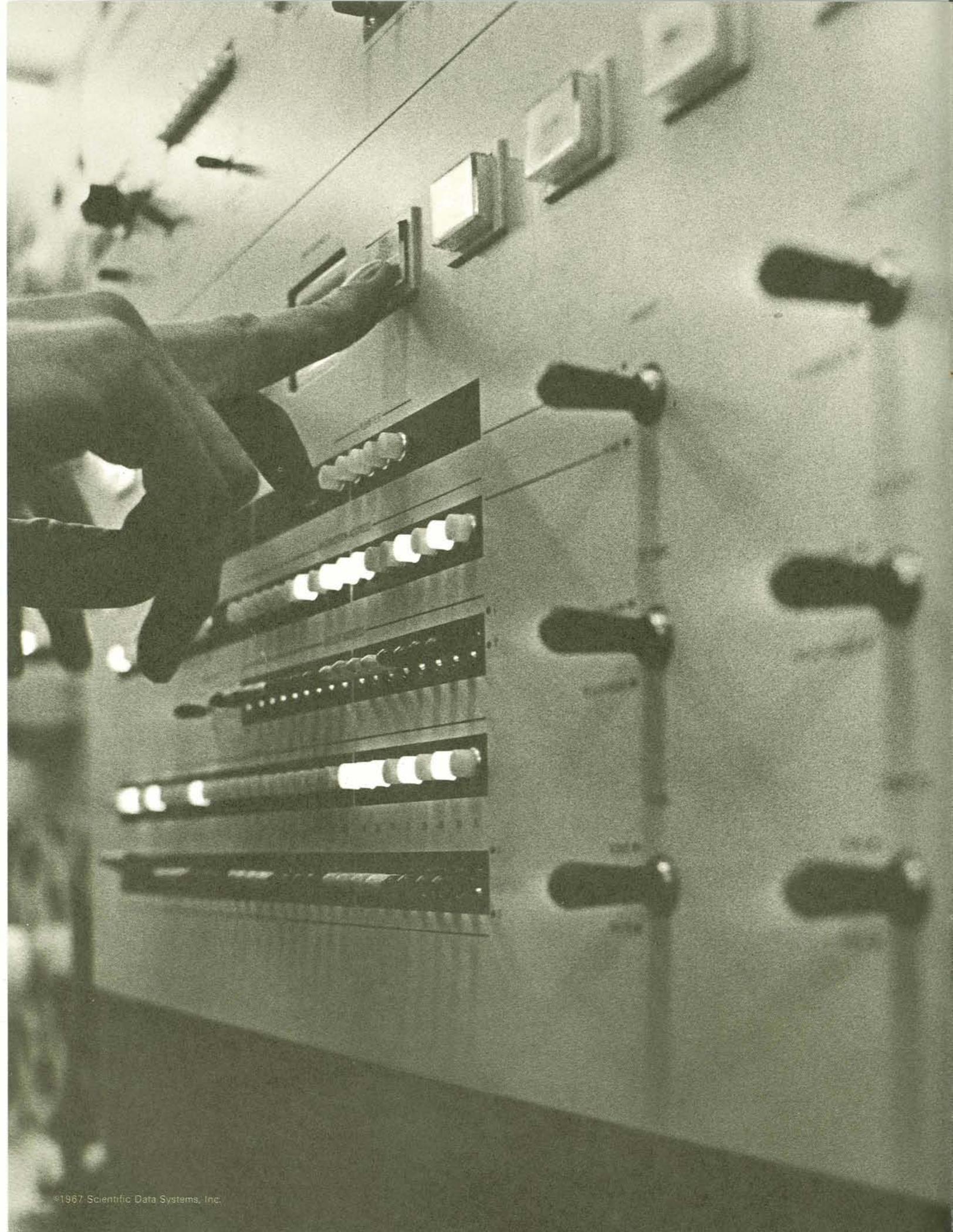


SDS

THE SIGMA FAMILY



SCIENTIFIC DATA SYSTEMS



Introducing Sigma from Scientific Data Systems:

A family of three high-performance, small to medium-size computers with nanosecond hardware and powerful software — for multi-use in a real-time environment.

SIGMA 2, the smallest member of the family, is designed for real-time processing with concurrent general-purpose operations in the background.

SIGMA 5, a medium-size computer, simultaneously performs multiple real-time operations while solving general-purpose problems in the background and controlling concurrent high-speed input/output operations.

SIGMA 7, the largest computer in the Sigma family, is specifically designed for real-time operations in a time-sharing environment. It can simultaneously perform real-time, conversational time-sharing, general-purpose, and high-speed input/output operations, individually or in any combination.

Sigma computers are ideally suited to a wide range of applications which require fast computation, concurrent input/output operations, and high volume throughput. The advanced hardware design uses monolithic integrated circuits for improved performance and greater reliability.

To realize the advantages of Sigma hardware, SDS provides advanced software, including operating systems, FORTRAN IV compilers, assemblers, and other programming systems. Sigma software meets or exceeds appropriate industry standards to provide necessary compatibility and lower programming costs.

Above all, Sigma computers offer an extraordinary combination of performance and economy to meet the needs of today while providing for future growth.

Specification Summary

	<i>Sigma 7</i>	<i>Sigma 5</i>	<i>Sigma 2</i>
Memory Capacity	4096 to 131,072 32-bit words		4096 to 65,536 16-bit words
Memory Cycle Time	850 nsec; effectively 600 nsec with overlapped memories	850 nsec for CPU and integral IOP. External IOPs benefit from overlap.	900 nsec
Word Size	32 bits (four 8-bit bytes) plus parity		16 bits (two 8-bit bytes) plus parity
General-Purpose Registers	16, expandable to 512	16, expandable to 256	8
I/O Channels	8 standard, expandable to 256		4 standard, expandable to 20
Maximum Input/Output Rate	5.0 million words per sec		4.4 million words per sec
Maximum Number of External Priority Interrupts	224		132
Typical Instruction Execution Speeds (microseconds)			
Load Word	1.8	2.0	2.25
Store Word	2.4	2.6	2.25
ADD Word	1.8	2.0	2.25
MULTIPLY Word	4.9	9.0	10.35
DIVIDE Word	12.7	15.9	10.80
Floating Add Short	3.3	6.0	—
Floating Multiply Short	5.4	10.0	—
Cost			
Typical Configuration	\$700,000	\$300,000	\$26,000 to \$100,000

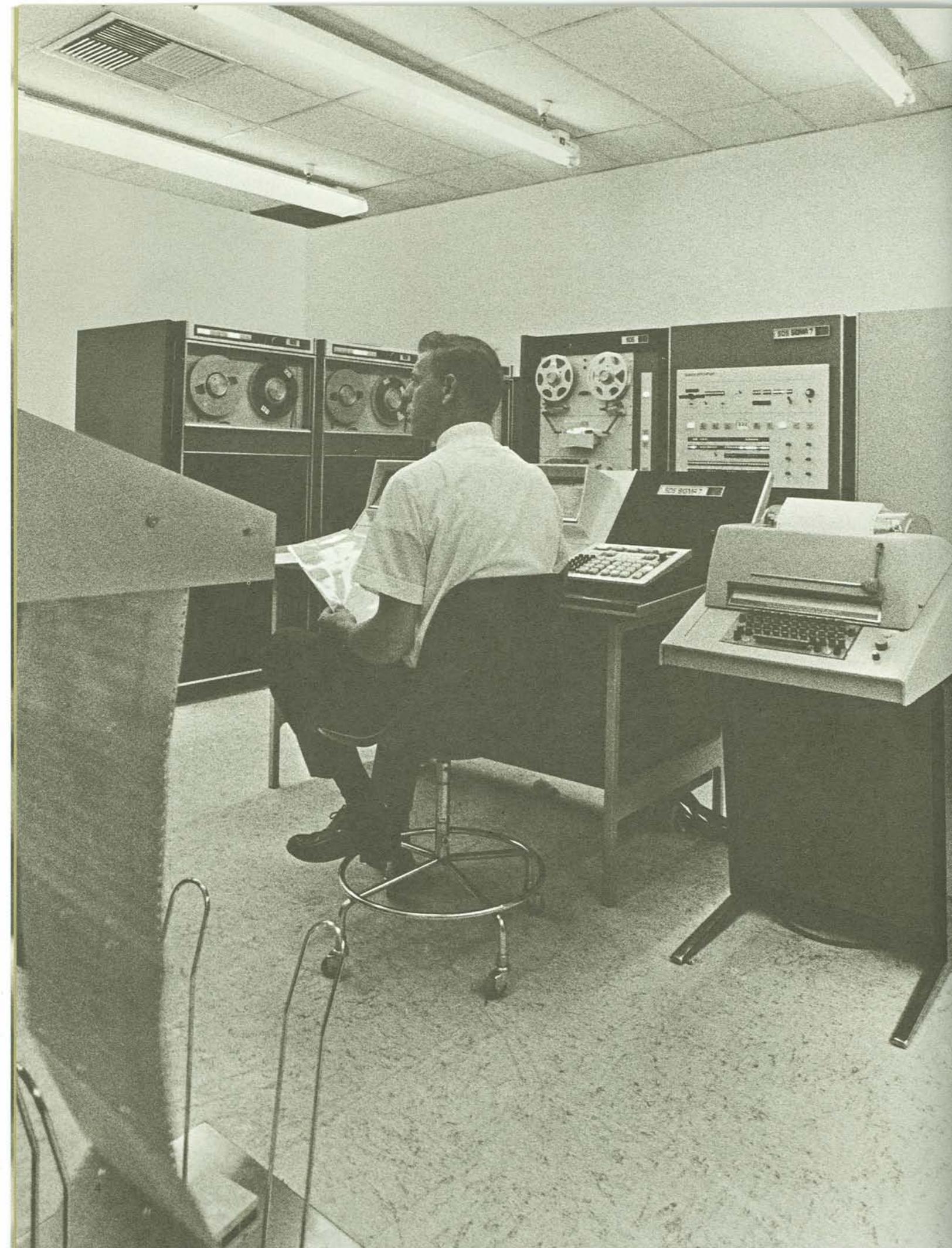
The SIGMA Concept

Traditionally, computers in the small to medium-size class were designed for a single application such as scientific computing, business data processing, or real-time control. For each of these applications, a separate machine was required. As the technology advanced, computers were developed to perform several of these jobs by switching from one application to another in sequence.

With the introduction of Sigma computers, both real-time systems control and general-purpose operations can be performed at the same time. Providing this multi-use capability requires significant advances in both hardware and software.

Sigma software includes operating systems that give first priority to processing real-time control programs in the foreground while remaining computer capacity is used to perform general-purpose operations in the background. Special hardware features permit Sigma computers to switch efficiently between these two kinds of work at very high speeds. Multi-port memories significantly increase system throughput capability.

To store the large programming systems provided with Sigma systems without a sharp increase in hardware memory costs, SDS has developed its Rapid-Access Data (RAD) file. The RAD provides high performance and large capacity at the low cost associated with ordinary disc files. And because one read/write head per track is used, rather than a movable head shared among many tracks, the RAD eliminates long access delays and provides the high data transfer rates and reliability required for real-time applications. For off-line storage of RAD information, SDS offers both high-speed and low-cost magnetic tape units.



SIGMA 5 and SIGMA 7

Sigma 5 and Sigma 7 are specifically designed for high-speed multi-use in a real-time environment. In addition, Sigma 7 simultaneously performs interactive time sharing with many users at remote sites.

Sigma 7 offers greater speed and time-sharing capability; Sigma 5 offers lower cost. Both machines were designed using the same basic concepts including similar hardware and software building blocks. The modular Sigma hardware design permits easy field expansion by adding memory, input/output processors, peripheral devices, and central processor options.

A Sigma 5/7 system consists of one or more core memories, a central processing unit, and input/output processors (IOPs). In Sigma 7, one to eight external IOPs provide greater speed through overlap of computation and input/output. In Sigma 5, an integral IOP, which time-shares CPU hardware, is standard; up to eight external IOPs can be added for greater capacity.

Two types of IOPs are available with Sigma computers: the multiplexor and the selector.

The multiplexor IOP can simultaneously operate up to 32 device controllers providing a combined transfer rate of approximately 400,000 bytes per second. Each device controller is assigned its own channel and chain of I/O commands.

Each selector IOP can handle any one of up to 32 high-speed device controllers at rates approaching the full speed of the core memory. Multiple selector IOPs can operate concurrently into separate memory banks on independent memory buses. A pair of selector IOPs can share a common memory bus if desired.

The flexible Sigma I/O structure permits both data chaining (for scatter-read and gather-write operations) and command chaining (for multiple record operations without intervening CPU control).

In addition to channel operations through the IOPs, Sigma allows for direct input/output of a full word without the use of a channel. This is especially useful for asynchronous medium-speed I/O operations frequently encountered in special systems applications.

Multiple ports in each independent memory permit many high-speed I/O operations to proceed at the same time. With multiple memories and buses, up to five selector IOPs can be running at full speed at the same time, with a total throughput of up to five million words per second.

MEMORY

Memory cycle time is 850 nanoseconds. For maximum efficiency in dealing with the most commonly encountered data sizes, the Sigma word is 32 bits plus a parity bit. The total memory is directly addressable within the primary instruction word, precluding the need for base registers.

Core memory is expandable from 4,096 words to 131,072 words in increments of 4,096 words. For precise matching to the user's problem requirements, 32 different memory configurations are available.

For Sigma 7, if more than one core memory module is used, memory overlap occurs automatically for all processors whenever possible. For Sigma 5, such overlap occurs between all external I/O processors. To further improve the probability of overlap, Sigma permits interleaving of addresses, which increases the effective speed of the total computer system.

REGISTERS

Instead of conventional accumulators or index registers, Sigma provides a block of 16 general-purpose registers for greater power and flexibility. These can be used as fixed-point and floating-point accumulators, index registers, and temporary storage. As an option, blocks of 16 general-purpose registers can be added to increase the total number to 256 in Sigma 5 and 512 in Sigma 7.

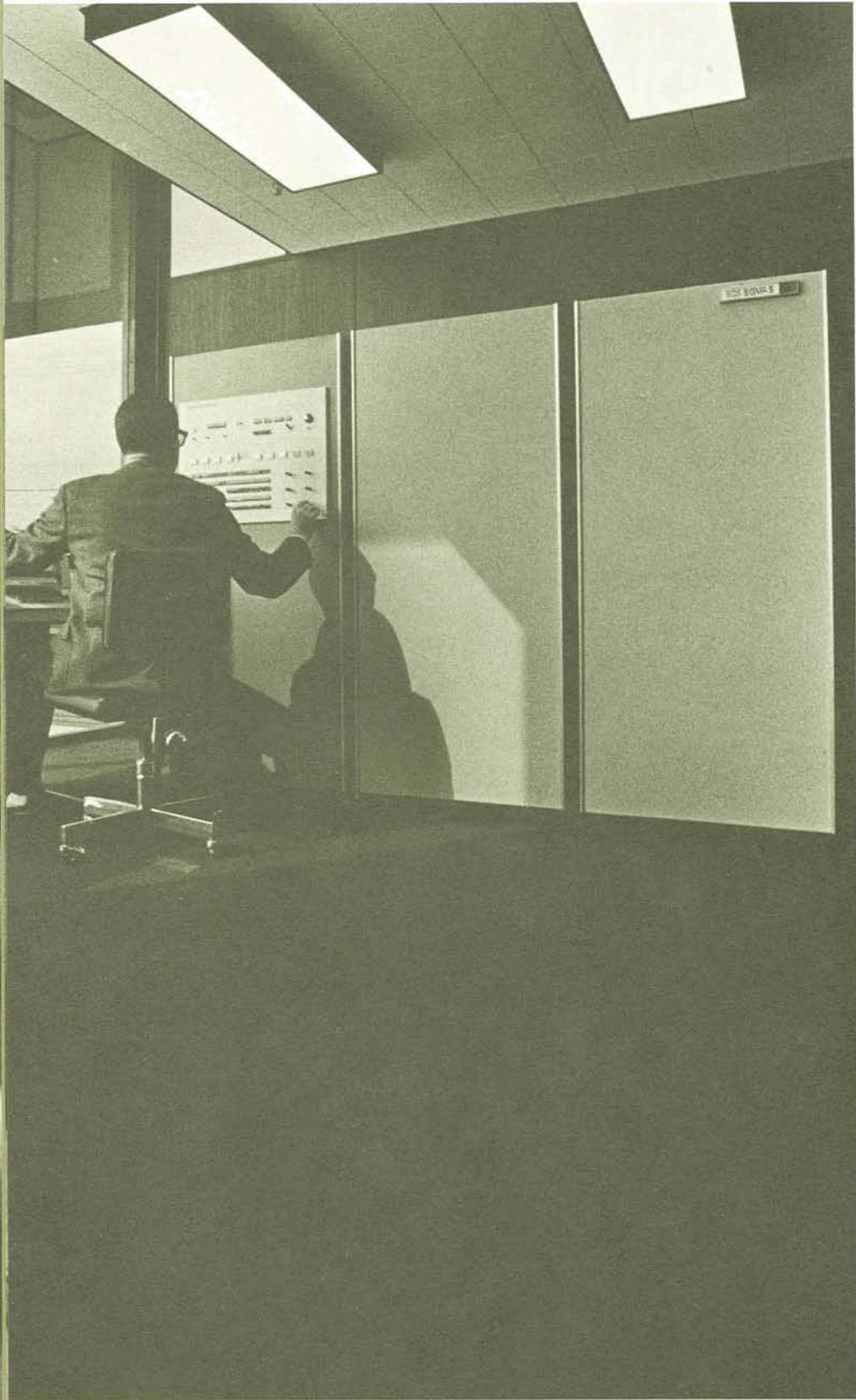
MEMORY WRITE PROTECTION

To insure system integrity, an optional set of registers in the CPU can be used to store a set of memory write protection codes, which can be changed only when the computer is in the master mode.

ADDRESSING

In addition to direct addressing of the entire memory, Sigma permits indirect addressing, which can also be indexed. When indexing is used, the index register automatically scales itself according to the size of the data involved for easier programming. For example, if the selected index register contains a 27, an indexed Load Byte instruction automatically loads the 27th byte; an indexed Load Word instruction automatically loads the 27th word, etc. This permits a single index register to be used to access the Kth element of an array, regardless of the type of elements in the array, without the need to perform complex index register calculations.

Sigma 5 performs real-time operations and general-purpose computations concurrently.



A selected set of instructions uses immediate addressing in which the operand is contained in the instruction itself to save space and time.

CONTEXT SWITCHING

When the system switches from one user to another or when it responds to a priority interrupt, the entire current program status can be stored and new status loaded, using a single instruction with an execution time of less than six microseconds.

INSTRUCTION FORMAT

For ease of use, Sigma uses a single instruction format. For greater speed, the entire instruction is accessed at one time.

I	OP	R	X	M	
0	1	7	8	11 12 14 15	31

When the effective address is 0 through 15, the system references one of the general registers rather than memory. This permits all instructions to operate as register-to-register, with indexing and indirect addressing if desired.

The large instruction repertoires for Sigma 5 and Sigma 7 include a full set of logical operations (AND, OR, EOR); shift operations of words or doublewords, in logical, circular, arithmetic, and optional floating-point modes, either left or right; and multiple register operations (multiple load, store, push, and pull). Four Call instructions permit up to 64 dynamically variable monitor services or user-defined functions.

PRIORITY INTERRUPTS

The priority interrupt system is an improved version of the system used in SDS 900 Series computers. Up to 224 levels of external interrupt are available. Each level has a unique address assigned in core and a unique priority. Hardware automatically handles and identifies the priority, and no special programming is required.

Each interrupt level can be individually armed and/or enabled for further flexibility. Assignment of priorities among blocks of interrupts is also flexible. The Sigma interrupt system permits any interrupt to be triggered under program control, which allows special system programs to be checked out before the special equipment is actually attached to the computer.

In Sigma 7, instructions with extended execution times are designed so that they are interruptible during their execution.

SIGMA 5 and 7 Software

To realize the advantages of the high-performance Sigma hardware, SDS provides advanced software that includes operating systems, FORTRAN compilers, assemblers and a complete package of business software. This comprehensive array of modular software expands in capability and speed as a system grows, without reprogramming.

Because Sigma programming systems automatically perform many routine functions, the user is free to concentrate on the problem to be solved. As a result, user programming costs are sharply reduced.

SDS software employs advanced programming techniques to minimize storage requirements and operating time, and to produce highly efficient object code. For medium and large configurations, the software makes full use of the advanced SDS RAD (Rapid-Access Data) file to increase throughput.

In addition to a basic programming package, Sigma allows users to select higher-level and intermediate-level programming languages, many with features unique to SDS.

OPERATING SYSTEMS

Basic Control Monitor Designed for real-time systems with concurrent general-purpose processing, the Basic Control Monitor permits simultaneous operation of a real-time foreground problem and a general-purpose background process which can be independent of or related to the real-time problem.

Batch Processing Monitor The Batch Processing Monitor is a natural superset of the Basic Control Monitor. Designed for a typical production environment in which many jobs are being processed from a job queue, Batch Processing Monitor permits background and foreground operation simultaneously with many concurrent buffered peripheral operations (symbionts).

Universal Time Sharing Monitor For Sigma 7, there is also an operating system specifically designed to efficiently control conversational time sharing. It handles all of Batch Monitor capabilities as well as automatic swapping to or from secondary storage, tertiary mass storage control, and tasking in a time-sharing environment. It provides for multiple users in a variety of modes: batch, conversational, real-time, etc., and permits multi-use of common re-entrant processes. For example, only one copy of the FORTRAN compiler is loaded to support all the users who need FORTRAN service concur-

rently. Both swapping time and monitor overhead time are reduced significantly.

COMPILERS

FORTRAN IV-H Exceeds ASA specifications for FORTRAN IV. It is compatible with the compilers for other large-scale computers.

SDS FORTRAN IV A compatible superset of FORTRAN IV-H. It provides a large number of important additional language features. The debug mode of SDS FORTRAN IV places special emphasis on diagnostic error-checking of user programs. The high-efficiency mode of SDS FORTRAN IV uses advanced compilation techniques to produce highly efficient object code. For example, DO loops are optimized.

A Conversational FORTRAN IV is also provided for time-sharing applications.

ASSEMBLERS

Symbol Accepts symbolic input from various media and translates standard SDS Sigma mnemonics and symbolic expressions into machine language.

Meta-Symbol A compatible superset of Symbol, Meta-Symbol provides additional capability including Functions and Procedures. It is a powerful tool for developing software systems for any object computer.

BUSINESS SOFTWARE

SDS COBOL-65 COBOL provides a convenient, and widely accepted programming language for business applications. The language specifications conform to proposed ASA standards. They include the SORT verb, a Report Writer, and a Table Handling feature.

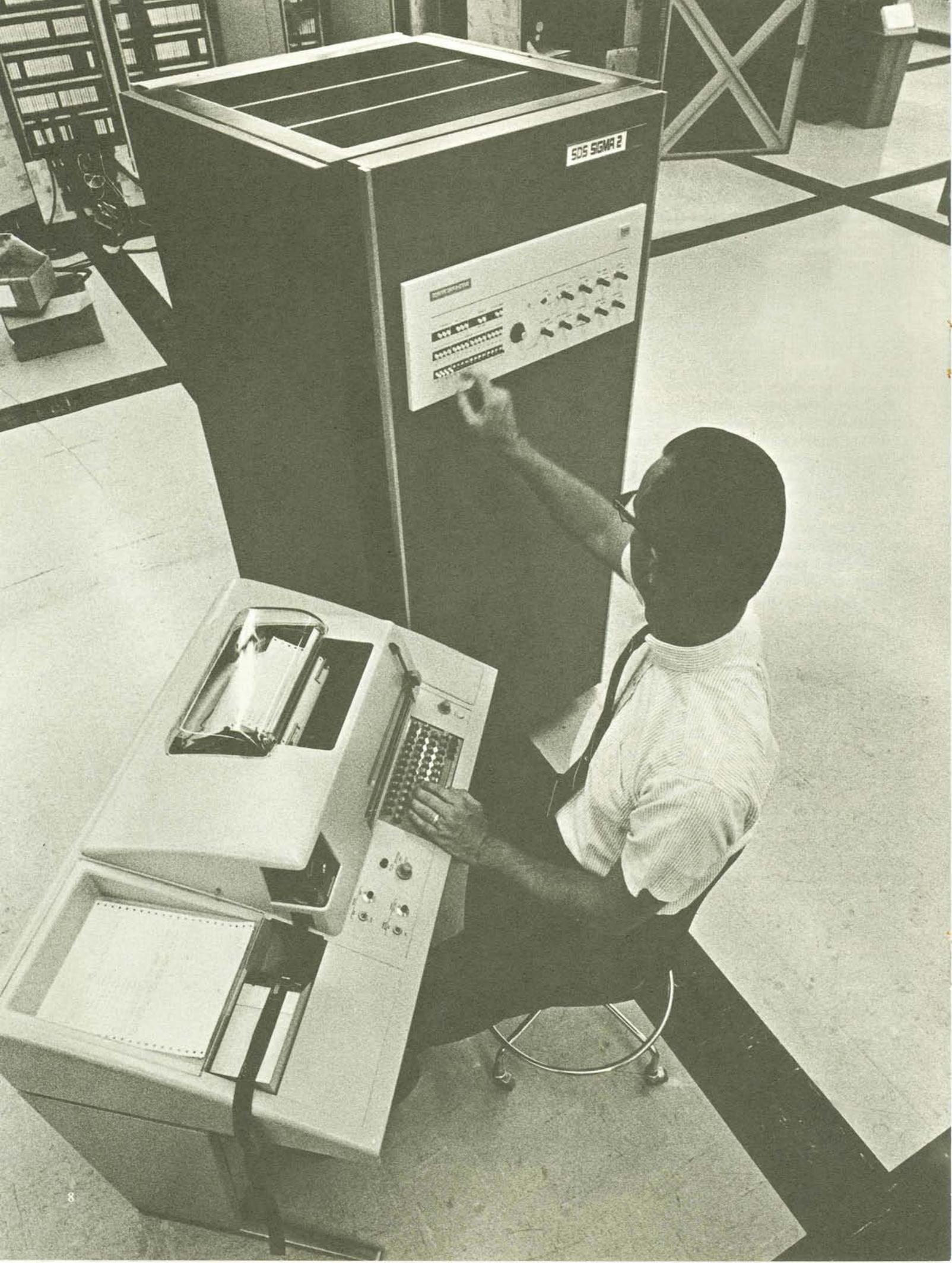
1401 Simulator A 1401 Simulator package minimizes the problems associated with converting 1401, 1440 and 1460 programs.

Sort/Merge The generalized SDS Sort/Merge package uses improved techniques based on the high performance SDS Rapid-Access Data file for fast sorting and merging.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

System Interface Unit Software Maintenance software for the standard off-the-shelf system interface units includes analog calibration and checkout programs, which operate under a stand-alone diagnostic control program. Standard analog and digital input/output handlers are provided.

Programming Systems Library More than 230 utility and mathematical programs are available in this library.



SDS SIGMA 2

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SIGMA 2

Sigma 2 is a low-cost computer designed to handle both real-time and general-purpose applications — concurrently. It is data and input/output compatible with the larger Sigma 5 and Sigma 7 computers and uses the same peripheral devices and standard interface units.

INPUT/OUTPUT

Sigma 2 provides four fully automatic, buffered input/output channels as standard equipment. Up to 16 additional automatic channels as well as direct input-output capability can be added at low cost. Maximum I/O transfer rate exceeds 400,000 8-bit bytes per second.

Three distinct Sigma 2 input/output systems offer sufficient flexibility and capacity to meet the needs of both real-time and general-purpose users.

BYTE-ORIENTED SYSTEM

Each automatic I/O channel has its own high-speed control registers and operates independently without requiring attention from the program once it has been started. Data is transferred one byte at a time (8 bits plus parity).

DIRECT-TO-CPU INPUT/OUTPUT SYSTEM

The Sigma 2 direct-to-CPU input/output system uses only a single instruction to transfer a full 16-bit data word to/from the A register. The same instruction that transfers data also provides a 16-bit control field for external control and selection and accepts status information returned from the external device to permit rapid sensing of an external condition.

DIRECT-TO-MEMORY INPUT/OUTPUT SYSTEM

This system provides up to five additional memory buses to each of four external memories. Each of these memories can be performing input/output independently and simultaneously for maximum throughput. The direct-to-memory I/O system is used for high-speed I/O transfers to/from external devices or other Sigma processors.

MEMORY

Memory cycle time is 900 nanoseconds. For the most efficient operation as a small-scale computer, Sigma 2 word length is 16 bits plus a parity bit.

Sigma 2 memory is available in 16 different sizes from 4,096 to 65,536 16-bit words. Sigma 2 can also connect directly to a Sigma 5/7 memory system.

CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT

The CPU consists of an arithmetic and control unit, and a block of high-speed registers. It executes instructions and controls all input/output operations.

SYSTEM PROTECTION REGISTERS

Sixteen optional registers of 16 bits each are provided with the system protection feature. Each bit in this array indicates the protection status for a 256-word page of memory. This approach offers two advantages to the user: lower cost than the bit-per-word system used in other machines and faster changes to the protection status of the computer.

GENERAL REGISTERS

The general registers are used for program control information and are identified below.

Name	Function
Z	Zero. Reserved for CPU use. Its address can be used as a source of zeros in Copy instruction.
P	Program Address Register
L	Link Address Register; used for re-entrant subroutines
T	Temporary Storage Register
X1	Index Register 1
X2	Index Register 2 (and Base Register)
E	Extended Accumulator; for multiple precision operations
A	Accumulator

ADDRESSING

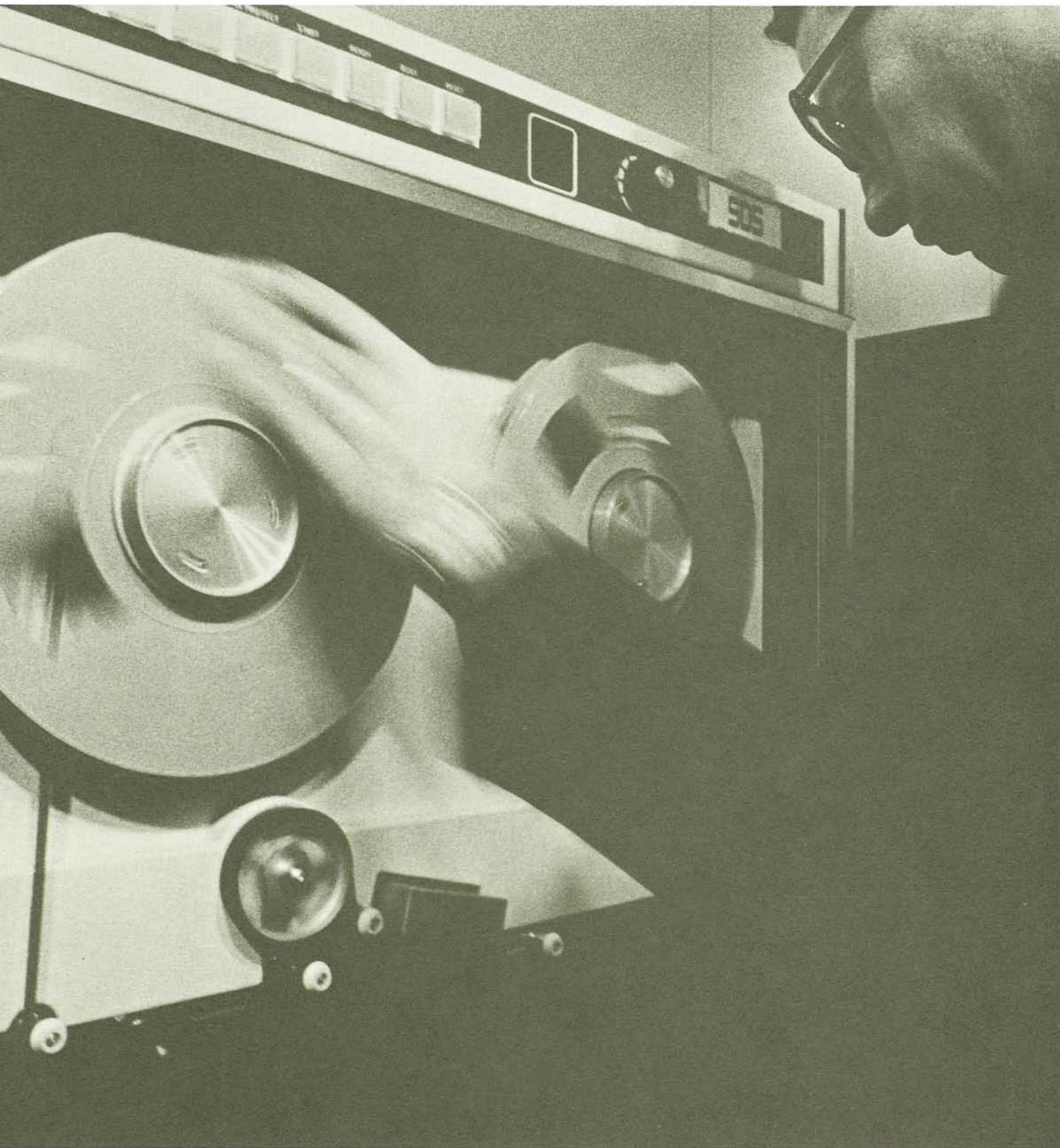
Indexing and indirect addressing may be used individually or together. All Sigma 2 memory-reference instructions are single word for greater efficiency in the use of program storage. Each instruction can directly reference 1024 addresses.

Sigma 2's relative addressing is always related to the current location of the instruction rather than to fixed pages. Sigma 2 can address both forward and backward over a large span of 256 words in either direction. As the program proceeds, it continually moves into new areas of memory where the internal tables and data needed for operation of that portion of the program may be stored.

In actual practice, a given program segment uses relative addressing (forward or backward) for branching within itself and for accessing its own operands and tables easily and quickly, with only a single-word instruction.

SDS engineer checks out low-cost Sigma 2 computer, which performs concurrent foreground/background processing.

*Programmer loads
Sigma software
on new SDS
magnetic-tape unit.*



SIGMA 2 Software

Sigma 2 programming systems (both assemblers and compilers) automatically handle assignment of the appropriate addressing mode to produce efficient code. The programmer is thereby freed to concentrate on the problem itself.

RAPID CONTEXT SWITCHING

When responding to a priority interrupt, Sigma 2 must first preserve the current operating environment and then rapidly establish the new environment with a minimum of overhead. Sigma 2 can switch contexts in less than four microseconds to provide concurrent foreground-background processing with true real-time interrupt response.

INSTRUCTION FORMAT

Most Sigma 2 instructions are of the memory-reference type, using this format:

Field	OP	R	I	X	S	D	Bits	Description
	4	1	1	1	1	8		
Op	Operation Code							
R	Relative Addressing Bit							
I	Indirect Addressing Bit							
X	Indexing Bit							
S	For Relative Addressing, acts as sign bit to show relative forward or backward. For Nonrelative Addressing, controls use of Index Register 2 in forming effective address							
D	Displacement							

PRIORITY INTERRUPT

Sigma 2 provides up to 132 distinct levels of priority interrupt, each with its own unique memory location and its own priority. When an interrupt occurs, its source is identified and its priority in relation to other currently active interrupts is determined rapidly and automatically by the hardware. Because these functions need not be programmed, interrupt routines occupy minimum space and require shorter execution times. Sigma 2's rapid context switching permits interrupt processing to begin quickly without time-consuming overhead.

Each interrupt level can be individually armed and/or enabled to permit dynamic reassignment of priorities even during actual execution of a real-time program. Any group of 16 interrupts can have its block of priorities assigned to match the user's needs. This assignment does not change the locations of the interrupts or their programming.

Sigma 2 programming systems reduce user costs by providing efficient tools that are easy to use. Because there are few arbitrary software restrictions and Sigma 2 programming systems automatically perform many routine program-writing functions, the user is free to concentrate on the problem to be solved. Programming effort and costs are sharply reduced.

Sigma 2 programming systems are modular. As the user expands the size of a configuration, larger, more efficient and more powerful supersets of the software previously used become available.

OPERATING SYSTEMS

Basic Control Monitor (BCM) Designed for small configurations without a Rapid Access Data (RAD) file, BCM provides centralized services for input/output, interrupts, clocks, traps, etc. It also provides for concurrent, real-time, foreground processing and background batch processing.

Real-Time Batch Monitor (RBM) RBM is a natural superset of BCM. It automatically handles scheduling of foreground/background tasks to provide multi-use capability on a priority basis. The foreground tasks may be resident or nonresident in core memory.

For batch processing, background general-purpose computing tasks can be operated sequentially from a job stack without operator intervention. To facilitate handling of larger, more sophisticated tasks, RBM provides dynamic overlay services in which succeeding user-defined sections of a large program are automatically called from the high-speed RAD file into core memory.

COMPILERS

SDS BASIC FORTRAN This compiler exceeds ASA (American Standards Association) standards for Basic FORTRAN. It can operate in either the stand-alone mode or under Basic Control Monitor.

SDS FORTRAN IV A superset of Basic FORTRAN, it exceeds ASA standards for full FORTRAN IV and includes many important extensions to the language such as in-line symbolic coding.

ASSEMBLERS

Both Sigma 2 assemblers, Symbol and Extended Symbol, allow the user to ignore the addressing modes of the hardware and program as if all core storage were directly addressable.

SIGMA Systems

The SDS data systems group has extensive experience in the design and manufacture of real-time, on-line, and special-purpose computer-based systems. This experience is reflected in the design of Sigma computers and systems devices.

To deal with the wide variety of information formats encountered, a successful real-time system requires special hardware and software in addition to an efficient systems-oriented computer. SDS offers an extensive array of system interface units (SIUs) for all Sigma computers. These standard, modular units connect analog and digital devices to the computer while fully exploiting Sigma's advanced input/output features.

Standard SIUs available for Sigma systems include:

Analog Input Controller, which provides the interface and control necessary to operate an analog-to-digital converter and a high-speed multiplexer through an 8-bit I/O channel. The controller permits random or sequential sampling of analog inputs at prespecified intervals. Any number of these controller units can be added to a Sigma system.

Analog Output Controller, which provides the interface and control necessary to operate from one to 16 digital-to-analog channel controllers through an 8-bit I/O channel. Each channel controller can operate five to 16 digital-to-analog converters. The unit allows analog outputs to be controlled randomly, sequentially, or simultaneously. Any number of these controller units can be added to a Sigma system.

IOP-to-DIO Adapter, which transforms any Sigma 8-bit I/O channel into an interface identical to the Sigma Direct I/O Interface. The adapter unit enables users to perform a program-specified number of 32-bit direct input or output operations, in any combination, with the 8-bit I/O channel. Any number of these controller units can be added to a Sigma system.

Digital I/O Subsystem, which generates pulsed digital outputs, transfers data in memory to output registers, stores input signals in memory, and provides latched relay drive signals. Each fully expanded unit accommodates any combination of 8-bit stored output

groups, 8-bit relay drive groups, 16-bit pulsed output groups, or 16-bit input groups up to total of 60 groups. One to four units can be added to a Sigma system via the direct I/O interface.

Analog and Digital Adapter, which provides the interface and control circuitry to operate one analog-to-digital converter, one analog multiplexer, and one or two digital-to-analog channel controllers on Direct I/O. This unit generates pulsed digital outputs, transfers data in memory to output registers, and stores the states of input lines in memory. One unit can be attached to a Sigma system via the direct I/O interface.

Frequency Control Subsystem, which provides frequency control of analog input, analog output, and digital transfer control units, causing external devices to perform operations at prespecified intervals. Each fully expanded unit furnishes four frequency sources. The frequency of each source can be specified manually or by the program. One or two of these units can be used in a Sigma system.

Because SIUs are standard equipment, they satisfy individual system requirements without the need for special engineering. User benefits include lower cost, ease of system design, ease of maintenance, extensive documentation, and greater flexibility as system needs change. System interface units are handled in the same easy-to-use manner as all SDS peripheral equipment and have standard software. During checkout, a special operating system is generated which provides configuration identification and I/O data handling in standard form for system interface units. SIU maintenance software includes analog calibration and checkout programs and digital input/output programs.

In addition, SDS produces a complete line of analog/digital instruments and modules for interfacing Sigma computer systems with a wide range of real-time environments.

SIGMA Peripherals

Rapid-Access Data Files. RAD units provide storage capacities from 750,000 to 192 million 8-bit bytes per control unit; transfer rates range from 188,000 to 2.2 million bytes per second; fixed read/write head-per-track design eliminates the time delays associated with movable-head disc files and produces average access times as low as 17.5 milliseconds. A no-latency programming feature on most models further reduces access time to less than 30 microseconds.

Magnetic-Tape Units All Sigma tape units use the SDS single-capstan design for gentle tape handling and increased unit reliability. Air bearings assure that nothing except the read/write head touches the oxide recording surface of the tape. Four models use both seven-track and nine-track formats, which are completely IBM-compatible. High speed units operate at speeds to 150 inches per second with transfer rates to 120,000 bytes per second. Low-cost units operate at 37.5 inches per second with transfer rates of 20,850 characters per second.

Display Multipurpose Keyboard Display is fully buffered, with 7- x 10-inch display area containing up to 2048 characters. These are displayed in any of 32 lines of up to 86 characters each. Features include the full ASCII character set including upper and lower case, half-line up or down controls, backspace, and a monoscope character generator for bright, easy-to-read character displays.

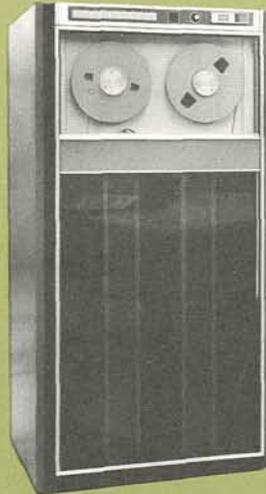
Card Equipment Card readers with speeds of 400 and 800 cards per minute handle intermixed binary and EBCDIC card decks. Card punch operates at 300 cards per minute.

Line Printers Fully buffered, speeds to 1,000 lines per minute, 132 print positions with 56 different characters.

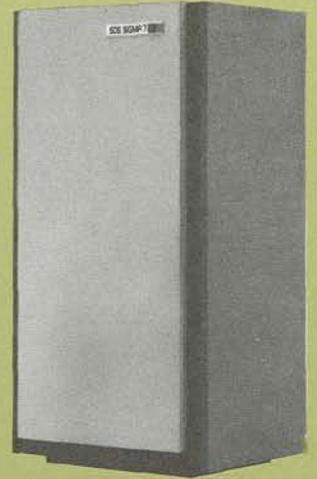
Keyboard/Printers Also available with integral paper-tape reader (20 characters per second) and punch (10 characters per second).

Paper-Tape Equipment Readers with speeds to 300 characters per second. Punches with speeds to 120 characters per second.

Data Communications Equipment A complete line of character-oriented and message-oriented equipment connects remote and local user terminals through private lines or an existing common communications carrier network.



Magnetic-tape system



RAD file system



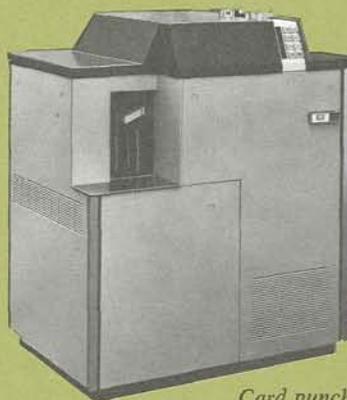
Keyboard display



Keyboard/printer



Card reader



Card punch



Line printer



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Albuquerque, N. M. 87112
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