

# computer "revolution"

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## History of Information

**March 31, 2017**



Exam: Thursday  
9:30 - 11:00

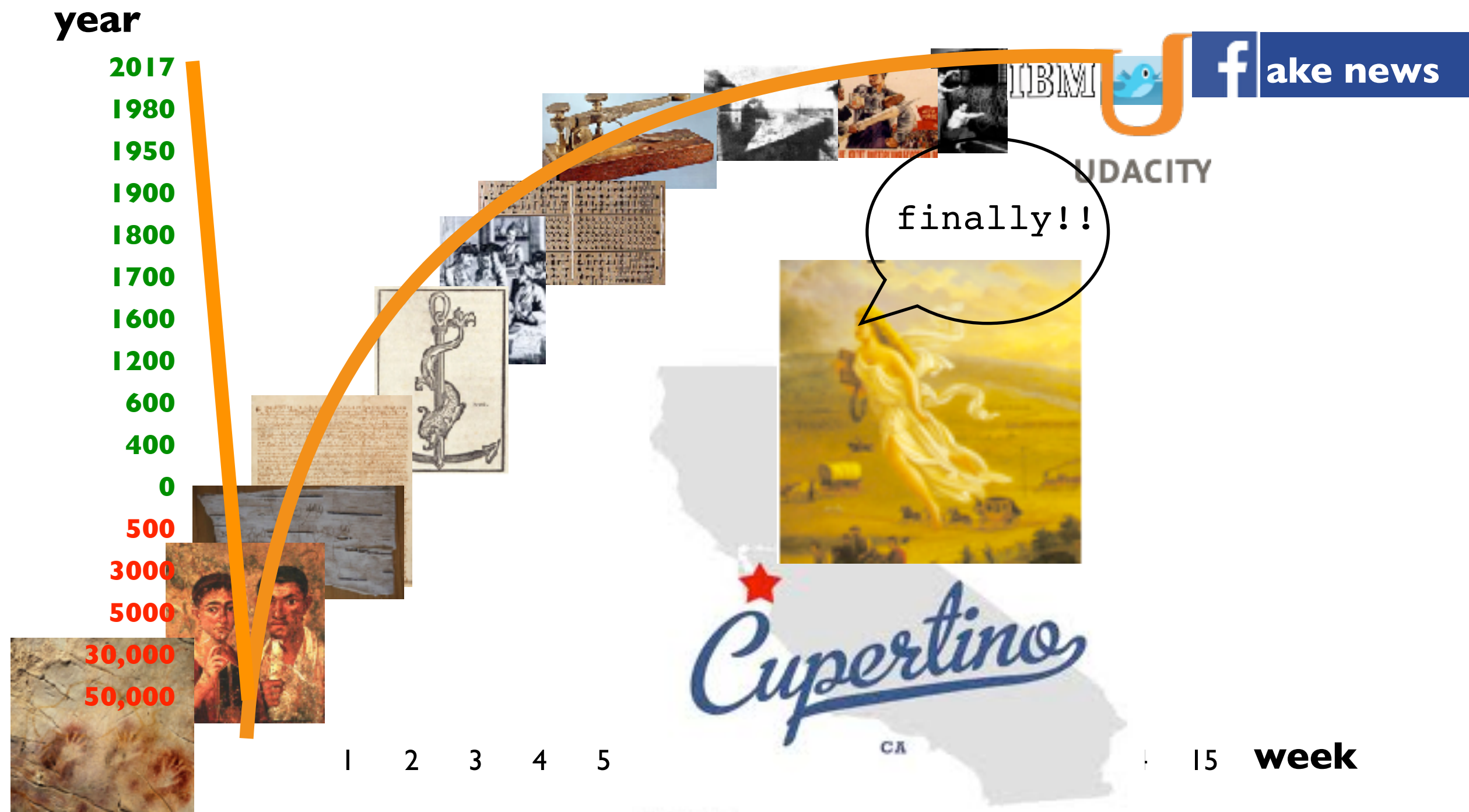


don't forget



# Computer "Revolution"

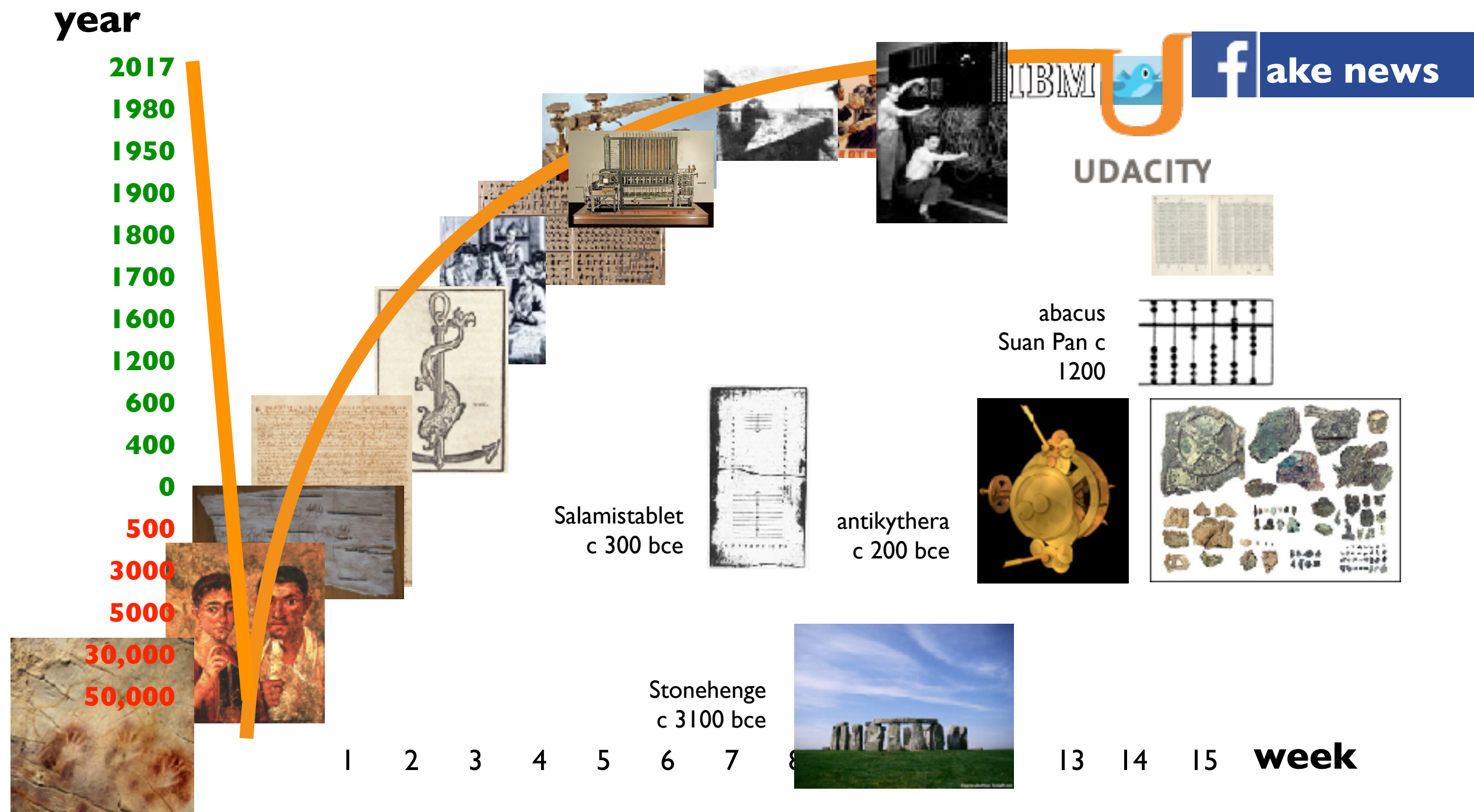
## where are we?





# Computer "Revolution"

## not so fast





# Computer "Revolution"

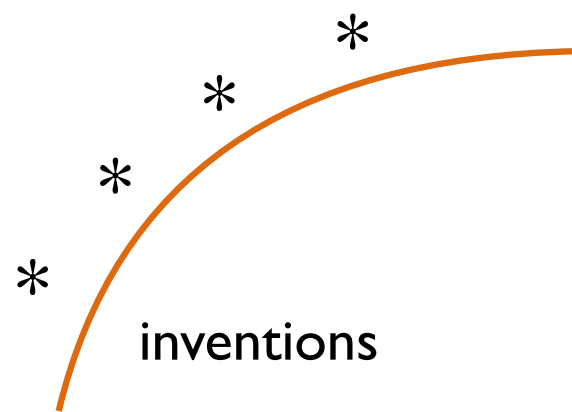
the demand side

changing business

changing perceptions

inventions

The diagram features a thick, curved orange line that starts at the bottom left and curves upwards and to the right, approaching a horizontal red line at the top. The labels are positioned around this curve: 'the demand side' is to the left of the curve, 'changing business' is above the curve, 'changing perceptions' is further above the curve, and 'inventions' is below the curve.



Inventions ... are almost always born out of a process that is more like farming than magic. From a complex ecology...that includes the condition of the intellectual soil, the political climate, the state of technical competence ...  
—Szarkowski, *Photography Until Now*.

## invention to innovation

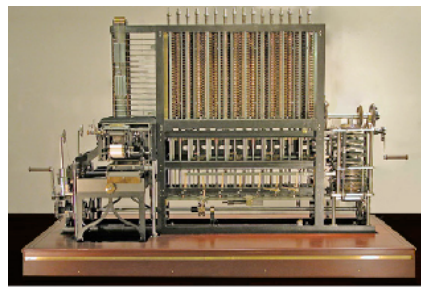
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"The invention [of television] was no single event. ... a very complex interaction between new needs and new inventions ...  
**military ... government ... corporate** interests ... ."

-- Williams, *Technology and Cultural Form*, 1973

### eye witness account

"What constitutes an invention?--Few simple mechanical contrivances are new; and most combinations may be viewed as a species, and classed under genera ... [and] pronounced old or new according to the mechanical knowledge of the person who gives his opinion."  
--Babbage, *On the Economy of Machinery*, ... 1832



# when was *the* computer?

## Inventions

cog

clock

logarithm

loom

governors

...

vacuum  
tube

transistor

chip

...

genes

## Technology

“computer”  
or  
“engine”

## Applications

calculating

registering

sorting

controlling

...

## Media

engines

mainframe

desktop

cars ...

laptop

the net

the web

phones

tablets

the cloud

## Genres

tables

ballistics

accounting

registration

logistics

...

bbs

email

social  
networks

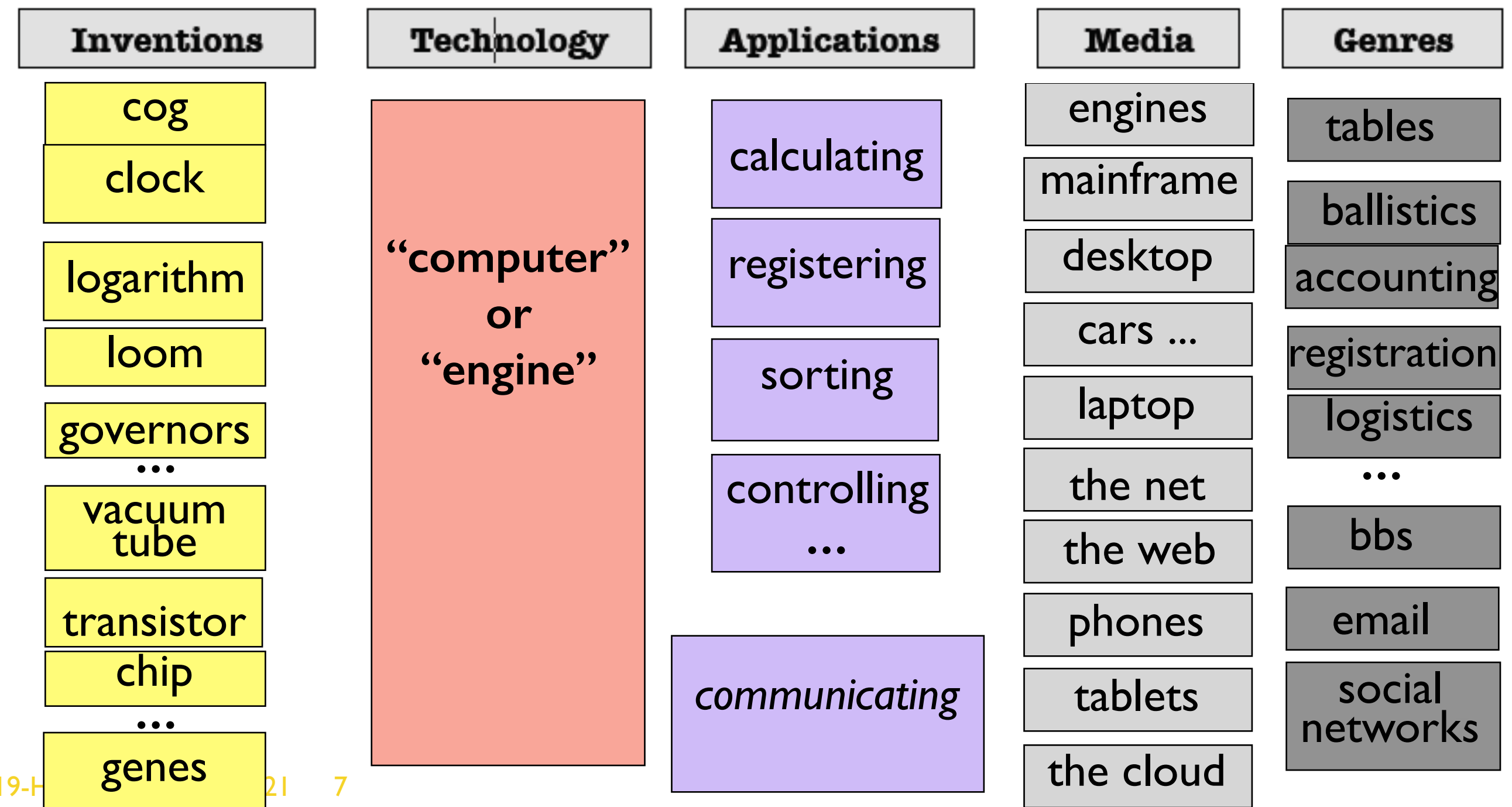




“the first awareness that we had of the fact that computers and data processing had something in common with communications started in early '65”

—Bernard Strasberg, FCC, 1988.

# when was *the* computer?





Napier 1617



Schickard 1623



Pascal 1642



# who invented *the* computer?

## cybersaints

"If I were to choose a patron saint for cybernetics ... Leibniz... like his predecessor Pascal"



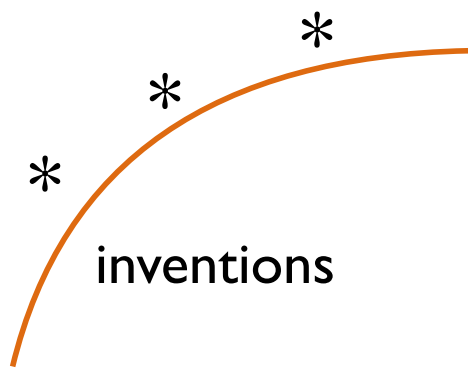
Leibniz  
1671



—Norbert Wiener, *Cybernetics* 1948







inventions

"I wish to God these calculations had been executed by steam" —Babbage, 1821

# computing

## John Napier (a 'computer')

*Mirifici Logarithmorum  
Canonis Descriptio, 1614*

John Napier  
1550–1617

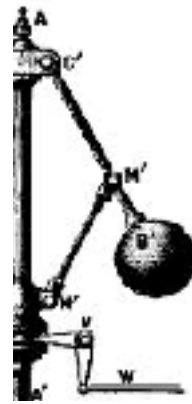
$$x^a \cdot x^b = x^{(a+b)}$$

## Charles Babbage

*Table of Logarithms  
from 1 to 108000  
1827*

Charles Babbage  
RS, 1791–1871





# *on the economy of machinery and manufactures*

## **an international perspective**

1: Sources of the Advantages Arising from Machinery

2: Accumulating Power

3: Regulating Power

"that beautiful contrivance,  
the steam governor..."

4: Increase and diminution of velocity

5: Extending the time of action of forces  
"watches & clocks ...  
automatons"

6: Saving time in natural operations

7: Exerting Forces too great for human power;  
and executing operations too delicate for human  
touch

### **8: Registering Operations**

9: Economy of the materials employed

10: Of the identity of the work when it is of the  
same kind, and its accuracy when of different  
kinds

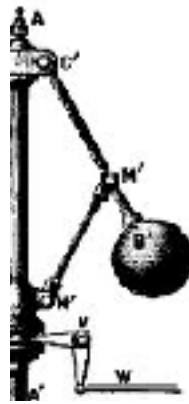
11: Of copying

12: On the method of observing manufacturies

...

19: On the division of labor

**20 On the mental division of labour**



# machinery c

## an international perspective

1: Sources of the Advantages Arising from Machinery

2: Accumulating Power

3: Regulating Power

"that beautiful contrivance, the steam governor..."

4: Increase and diminution of velocity

5: Extending the time of action of forces  
"watches & clocks ...  
automatons"

6: Saving time in natural operations

7: Ex

and e  
touch

8: R

9: Eco

10: C

same

kinds

11: C

12: C

...

19: C

20 C

274

Mr. J. C. Maxwell on Governors.

[Mar. 5,

I shall call all such resistances, if approximately proportional to the velocity, by the name of "viscosity," whatever be their true origin.

In several contrivances a differential system of wheelwork is introduced between the machine and the governor, so that the driving-power acting on the governor is nearly constant.

I have pointed out that, under certain conditions, the sudden disturbances of the machine do not act through the differential system on the governor, or *vice versa*. When these conditions are fulfilled, the equations of motion are not only simple, but the motion itself is not liable to disturbances depending on the mutual action of the machine and the governor.

### *Distinction between Moderators and Governors.*

In regulators of the first kind, let  $P$  be the driving-power and  $R$  the resistance, both estimated as if applied to a given axis of the machine. Let  $V$  be the normal velocity, estimated for the same axis, and  $\frac{dx}{dt}$  the actual velocity, and let  $M$  be the moment of inertia of the whole machine reduced to the given axis.

Let the governor be so arranged as to increase the resistance or diminish the driving-power by a quantity  $F \left( \frac{dx}{dt} - V \right)$ , then the equation of motion will be

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( M \frac{dx}{dt} \right) = P - R - F \left( \frac{dx}{dt} - V \right). \quad \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

When the machine has obtained its final rate the first term vanishes, and

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = V + \frac{P - R}{F}. \quad \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

Hence, if  $P$  is increased or  $R$  diminished, the velocity will be permanently increased. Regulators of this kind, as Mr. Siemens\* has observed, should be called moderators rather than governors.

In the second kind of regulator, the force  $F \left( \frac{dx}{dt} - V \right)$ , instead of being applied directly to the machine, is applied to an independent moving piece,  $B$ , which continually increases the resistance, or diminishes the driving-power, by a quantity depending on the whole motion of  $B$ .

If  $y$  represents the whole motion of  $B$ , the equation of motion of  $B$  is

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( B \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = F \left( \frac{dx}{dt} - V \right), \quad \dots \dots \dots (3)$$

and that of  $M$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( M \frac{dx}{dt} \right) = P - R - F \left( \frac{dx}{dt} - V \right) + Gy, \quad \dots \dots \dots (4)$$

where  $G$  is the resistance applied by  $B$  when  $B$  moves through one unit of space.

\* "On Uniform Rotation," Phil. Trans. 1866, p. 657.

# what to register

---

**pedometer**

**turns by the wheel of a carriage**

**number of strokes of a steam engine**

**coins struck by a press**

**watchman ... tell-tale**

**gauging of casks**

**gas meters**

**water meters**

**barometer**

**quantity of rain**

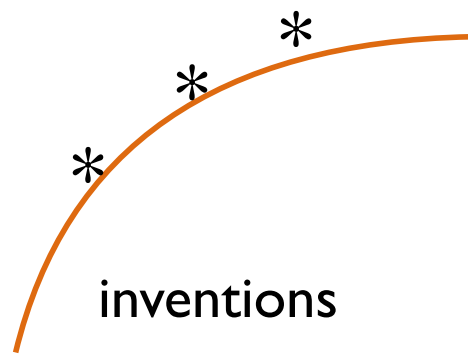
**traction of horses**

**number of vibrations**

**alarms**

**glass vase ...**





19: On the division of labor

20: On the mental division of labour

# divisions and combinations



**automata, computer, copying, registering**

**the "hands"** --manual division of labor, pin-making

—Smith, *Wealth of Nations*, 1776

**the "head"** --mental division of labor

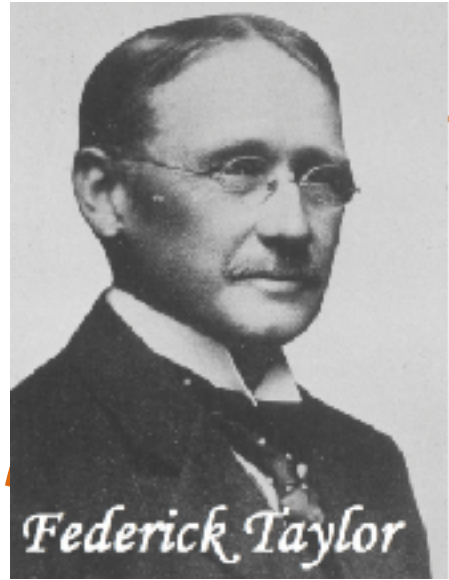
"And thinking itself, in this age of separations, may become a peculiar craft."

—Ferguson, *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*, 1767



Adam Ferguson

1723–1816



"labour indeed worthy of Hercules .. to give back to the world something so heavenly ... to dig up what is buried, to call back the dead, to repair what is mutilated, **to correct what is corrupted ... especially by the fault of those common printers who reckon ... profit worth more than the whole realm of letters**"

## between Erasmus & Taylor

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"Many mechanical arts require no capacity, they succeed best under a total suppression of sentiment and reason, and ignorance is the mother of industry as well as of superstition. Manufactures ... prosper most when the mind is least consulted; and where the workshop may .. be considered an engine, the parts of which are men."

—Adam Ferguson, *Essay on the History of Civil Society*, 1767

"One great advantage which we may derive from machinery is from the check which it affords against the inattention, the idleness, or the dishonesty of human agents."

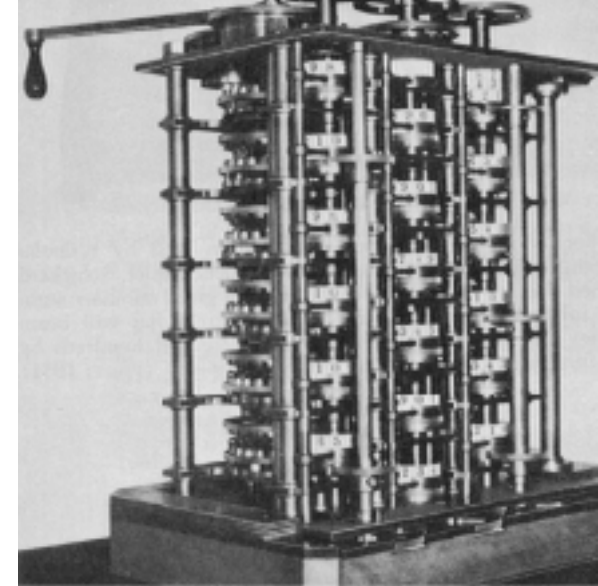
— Charles Babbage, *On the Economy of Machinery and Manufactures*, 1835

"a substitute for the compositor and the computer."

— Charles Babbage, "Letter to Humphrey Davy" 1822

“the division of labour can be applied with equal success to mental as to mechanical operations”

# differences



ON THE DIVISION OF MENTAL LABOUR. 193

“C’est à un chapitre d’un ouvrage Anglais,\* justement célèbre, (L.) qu’est probablement due l’existence de l’ouvrage dont le gouvernement Britannique veut faire jouir le monde entier :—

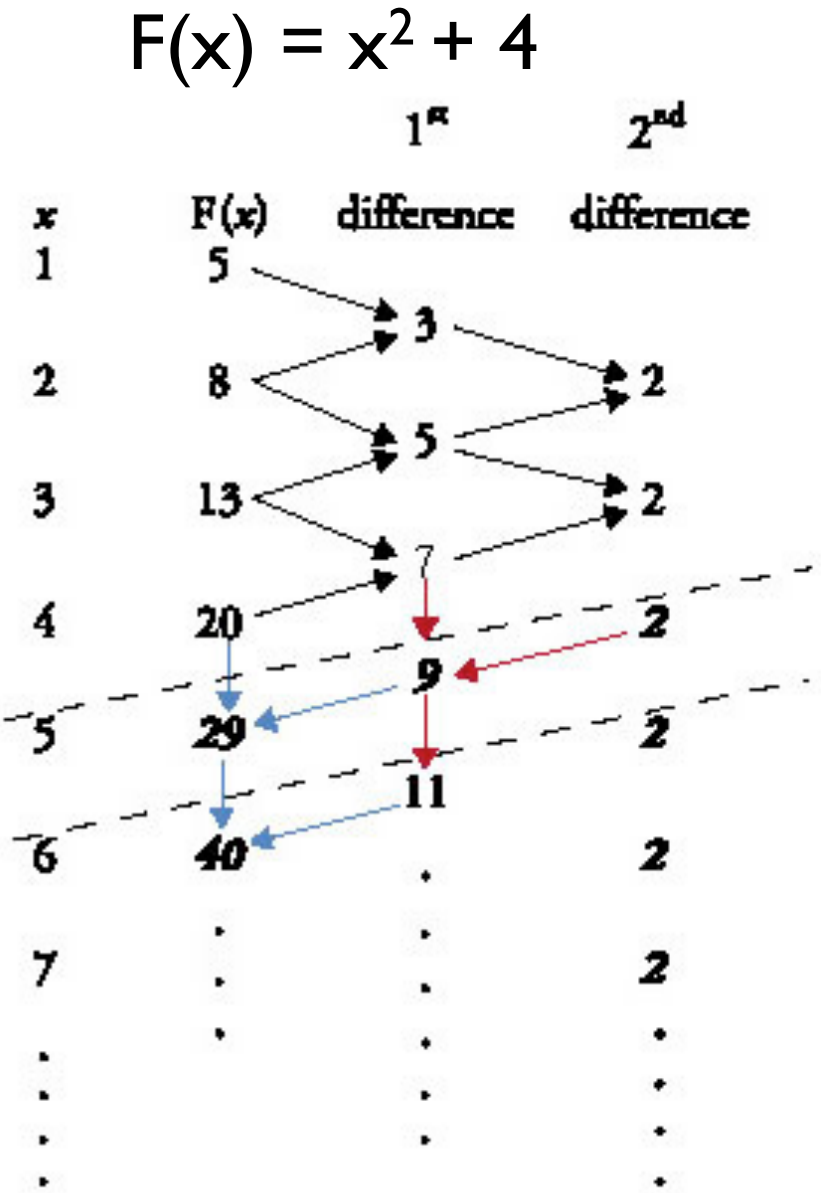
“Voici l’anecdote : M. de Prony s’étoit engagé, avec les comités de gouvernement, à composer pour la division centésimale du cercle, des tables logarithmiques et trigonométriques, qui, non seulement ne laissent rien à désirer quant à l’exactitude, mais qui forment le monument de calcul le plus vaste et le plus imposant qui eût jamais été exécuté, ou même conçu. Les logarithmes des nombres de 1 à 200,000 formaient à ce travail un supplément nécessaire et exigé. Il fut aisé à M. de Prony de s’assurer que même en s’associant trois ou quatre habiles co-opérateurs, la plus grande durée presurable de sa vie, ne lui suffirait pas pour remplir ses engagements. Il étoit occupé de cette fâcheuse pensée lorsque, se trouvant devant la boutique d’un marchand de livres, il aperçut la belle édition Anglaise de Smith, donnée à Londres en 1776 : il ouvrit le livre au hasard, et tomba sur le premier chapitre, qui traite de la division du travail, et où la fabrication des épingles est citée pour exemple. A peine avoit-il parcouru les premières pages, que, par une espèce d’inspiration, il conçut l’expédient de mettre ses logarithmes en manufacture comme les épingles. Il faisoit, en ce moment, à l’école polytechnique, des leçons sur une partie d’analyse liée à ce genre de travail, la méthode des différences, et ses applications à l’interpolation. Il alla passer quelques jours à la campagne, et revint à Paris avec le plan de fabrication, qui a été suivi dans l’exécution. Il rassembla deux ateliers, qui faisoient séparément les mêmes calculs, et se servoient de vérification réciproque.”†

\* An Enquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations, by Adam Smith.

† Note sur la publication, proposée par le gouvernement

200 ON THE DIVISION OF MENTAL LABOUR.

| Repetitions of Process. | MOVEMENTS. | CLOCK A.<br>Hand set to I.                        | CLOCK B.<br>Hand set to III.                     | CLOCK C.<br>Hand set to II. |
|-------------------------|------------|---|--|-----------------------------|
|                         |            | TABLE   | First difference.                                | Second difference.          |
| 1                       | Pail A.    | A. strikes . . . . 1                              | . . . . .  | . . . . .                   |
|                         | — B.       | { The hand is advanced (by B.) 3 divisions . . }  | B. strikes . . . . 3                             | . . . . .                   |
|                         | — C.       | . . . . .   | { The hand is advanced (by C.) 2 divisions . . } | C. strikes 2                |
| 2                       | Pail A.    | A. strikes . . . . 4                              | . . . . .  | . . . . .                   |
|                         | — B.       | { The hand is advanced (by B.) 3 divisions . . }  | B. strikes . . . . 5                             | . . . . .                   |
|                         | — C.       | . . . . .   | { The hand is advanced (by C.) 2 divisions . . } | C. strikes 2                |
| 3                       | Pail A.    | A. strikes . . . . 9                              | . . . . .  | . . . . .                   |
|                         | — B.       | { The hand is advanced (by B.) 7 divisions . . }  | B. strikes . . . . 7                             | . . . . .                   |
|                         | — C.       | . . . . .   | { The hand is advanced (by C.) 2 divisions . . } | C. strikes 2                |
| 4                       | Pail A.    | A. strikes . . . . 16                             | . . . . .  | . . . . .                   |
|                         | — B.       | { The hand is advanced (by B.) 9 divisions . . }  | B. strikes . . . . 9                             | . . . . .                   |
|                         | — C.       | . . . . .   | { The hand is advanced (by C.) 2 divisions . . } | C. strikes 2                |
| 5                       | Pail A.    | A. strikes . . . . 25                             | . . . . .  | . . . . .                   |
|                         | — B.       | { The hand is advanced (by B.) 11 divisions . . } | B. strikes . . . . 11                            | . . . . .                   |
|                         | — C.       | . . . . .   | { The hand is advanced (by C.) 2 divisions . . } | C. strikes 2                |
| 6                       | Pail A.    | A. strikes . . . . 36                             | . . . . .  | . . . . .                   |
|                         | — B.       | { The hand is advanced (by B.) 13 divisions . . } | B. strikes . . . . 13                            | . . . . .                   |
|                         | — C.       | . . . . .   | { The hand is advanced (by C.) 2 divisions . . } | C. strikes 2                |





# difference to analytical engine

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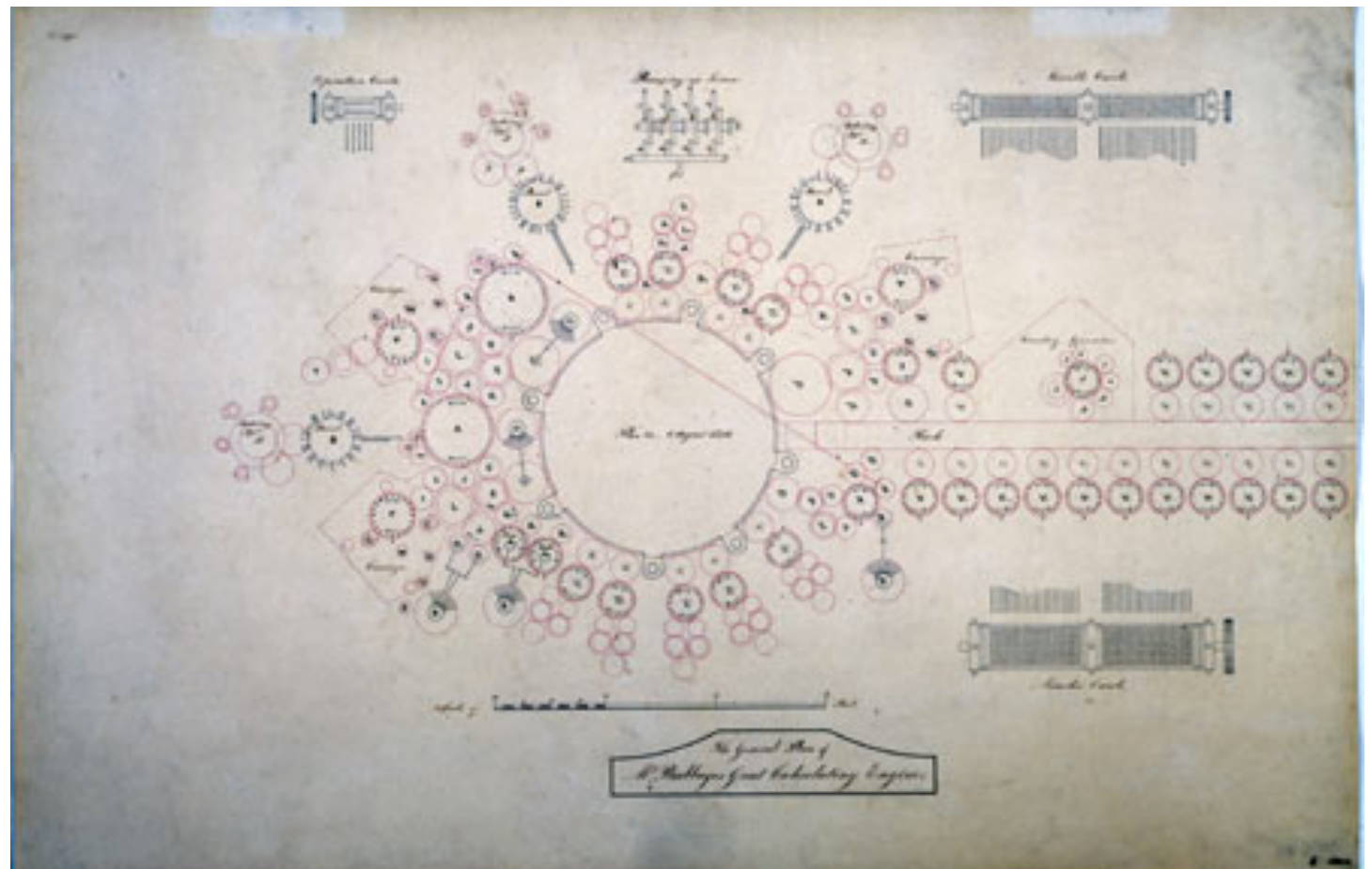
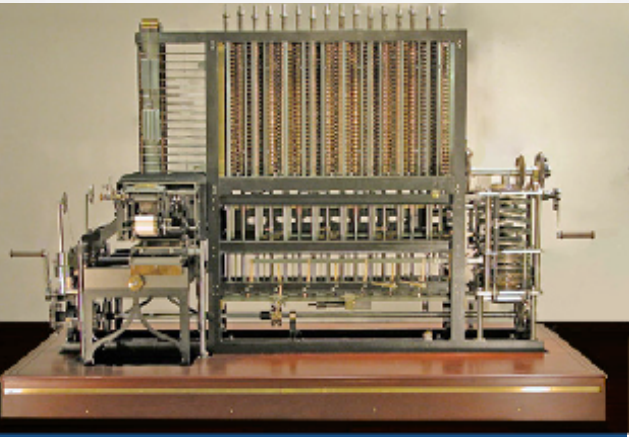
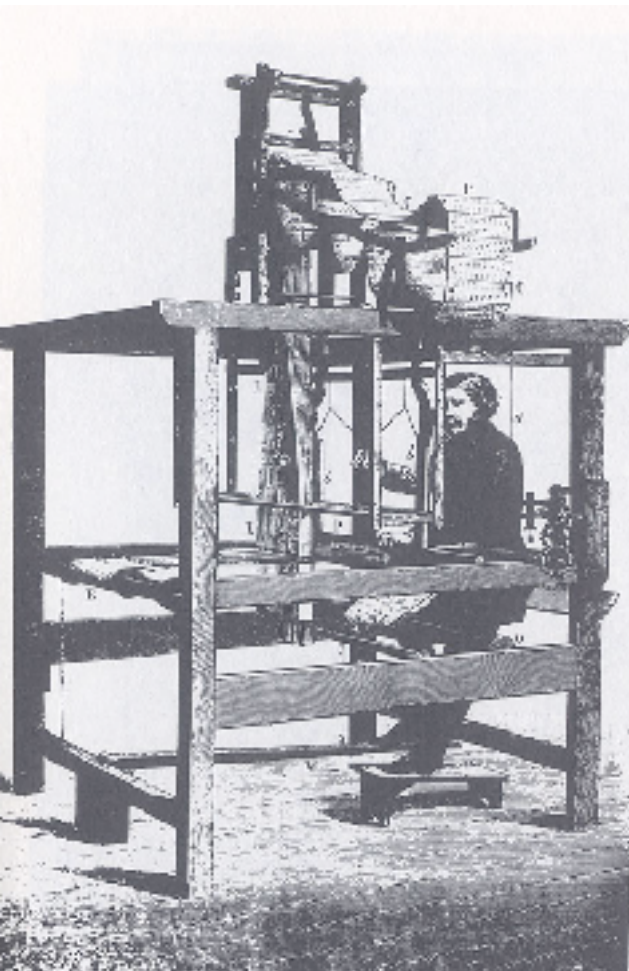
**general purpose machine**

programmable

storing

looping

branching







on the cards







on the cards

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# foresight



Ada Lovelace  
1815–1852

"although it is not itself the being that reflects, it may yet be considered as the being which executes the conceptions of intelligence"

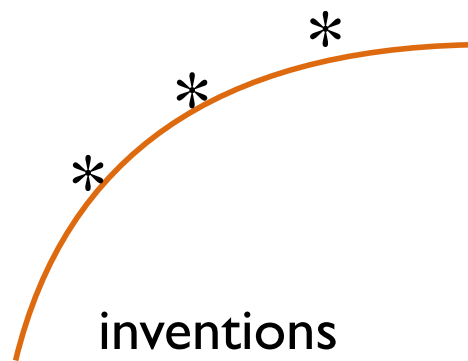
—Menabrea

"a machine that not only would have foresight, but could act on that foresight ..."

"I want to put in something about Bernoulli's Number, in one of my notes, as an example of how an explicit function, may be worked out by the engine, without having been worked out by human head and hands first"

--Lovelace to Babbage, 1843





# Thamus reborn?



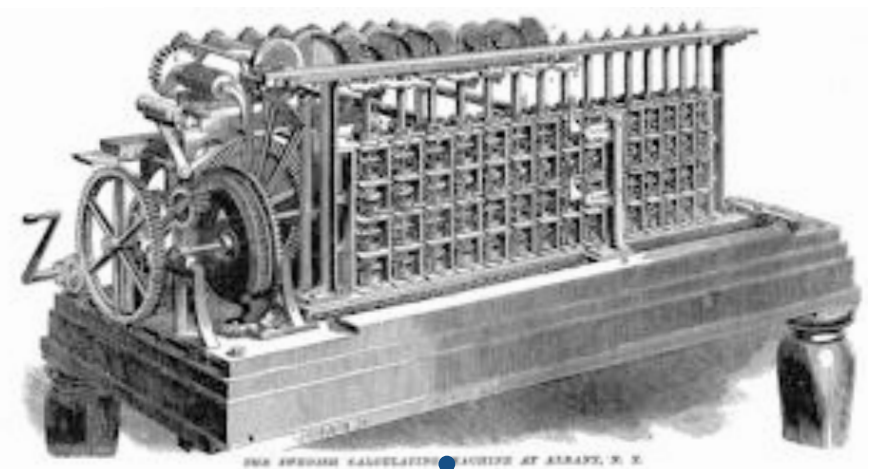
[people tend to]

"first, overrate what we find to be ..

remarkable, and secondly, by a sort of natural reaction, to undervalue the true state of the case ... The Analytical Engine has no pretension whatever to originate anything"

--Ada Lovelace,

Taylor's *Scientific Memoirs*, 1843



# difference engines



Georg Scheutz  
1785–1873



Edvard Scheutz  
1822–1881

## **spreading the word**

Scheutz Difference Engine, with printer c 1843

## **stepping westward**

Dudley Observatory, Schenectady, 1857

## **lifelong calculations**

"English Life Table" 1864

## **tide predictor, 1872**

William Thomson, Lord Kelvin (1824-1907)

## **weather predictions, 1922 [1916]**

Lewis Fry Richardson (1881-1953)

# Computer "Revolution"

"... the surveyor, the architect, the builder, the  
carpenter, the miner, the gauger, the naval  
architect, the engineer, civil and military ...  
interest, discount, and exchange " —Lardner

changing perceptions

changing business

*who might want these machines?  
(familiar faces)*

the demand side *why?*

*what would they want?*

inventions

*how did that shape what they got?*

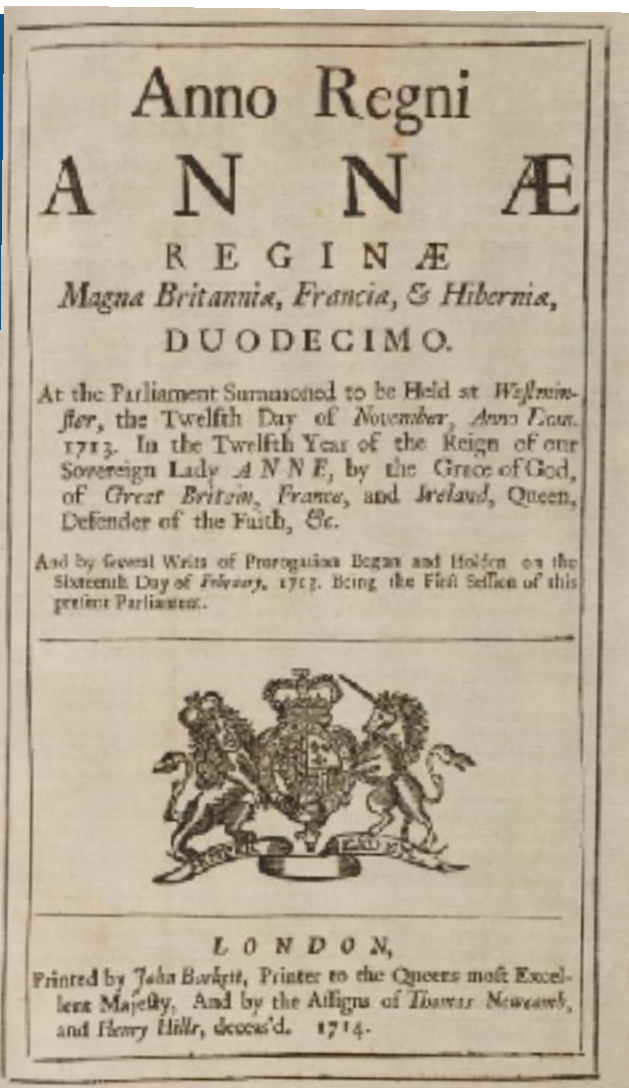




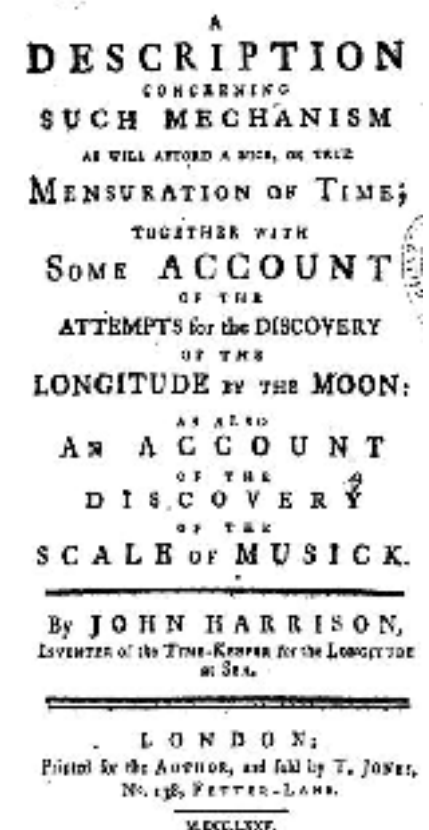
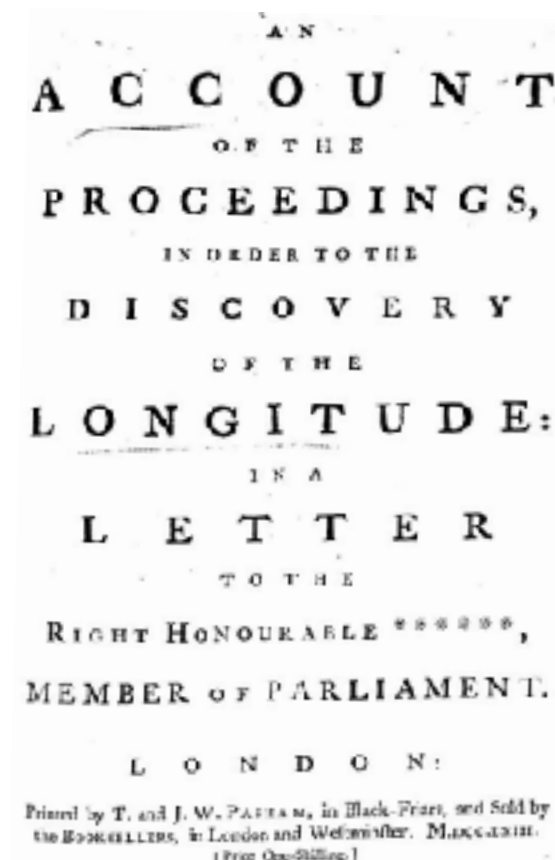
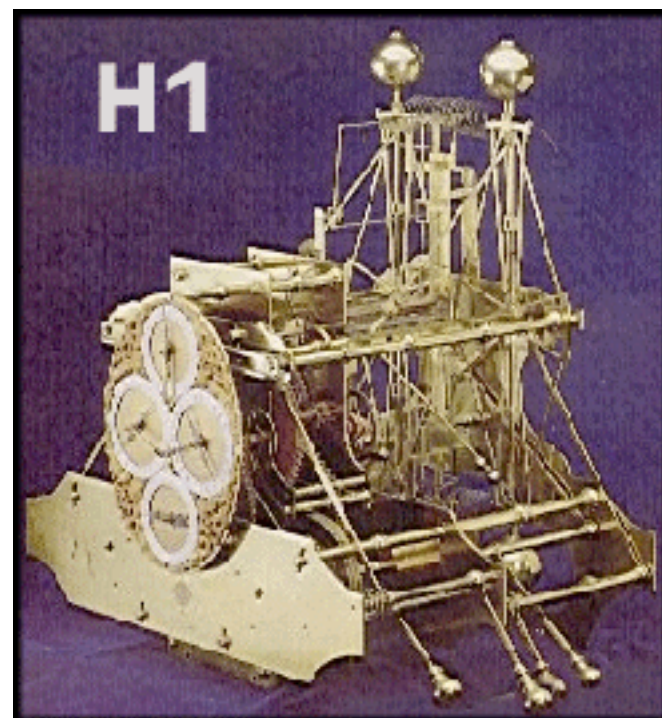
"The tables of powers and products published at the expense of the Board of Longitude" — Babbage

"Astronomy ... navigation ... a country ... inseparably connected to navigation " — Lardner

# scientific calculation



John Harrison  
1693-1776





"Statistics should reveal the quantum of happiness in a population [and] the means of further improvement."

—John Sinclair

# statistical accounts

"*Statistics*: a word lately introduced to express a view or survey of any kingdom, country, or parish"

*Encyclopaedia  
Britannica, 1797*

John Sinclair  
1754–1835



THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND,  
DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS  
OF THE  
MINISTERS  
OF THE  
DIFFERENT PARISHES.

By SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

VOLUME TWENTY-FIRST.

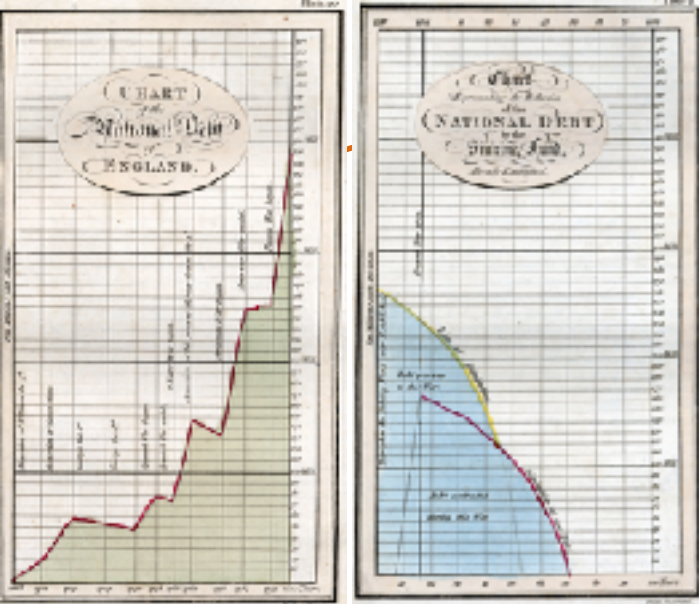
"*Ad confiliun de republica dandam, copias est nasse rempublicam.*"  
Cicero de Orat. lib. ii.

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY WILLIAM CREECH;  
AND ALSO SOLD BY J. BOWLANDSON, A. GUTHRIE, W. LAIRD,  
AND JO. FAIRBAIRN, EDINBURGH; T. CADELL, J. MEE-  
RETT, AND J. SEWEL, LONDON; DUNLOP AND WIL-  
SON, GLASGOW; ARGUE AND SON, ABERDEEN.

MDCCLXXX.





# Scots & statistics



THE  
STATISTICAL BREVIARY;  
SHEWING,  
ON A PRINCIPLE ENTIRELY NEW,  
THE RESOURCES  
OF EVERY  
STATE AND KINGDOM IN EUROPE;  
ILLUSTRATED WITH  
STAINED COPPER-PLATE CHARTS,  
REPRESENTING THE  
PHYSICAL POWERS OF EACH DISTINCT NATION  
WITH EASE AND PERSPICUITY.

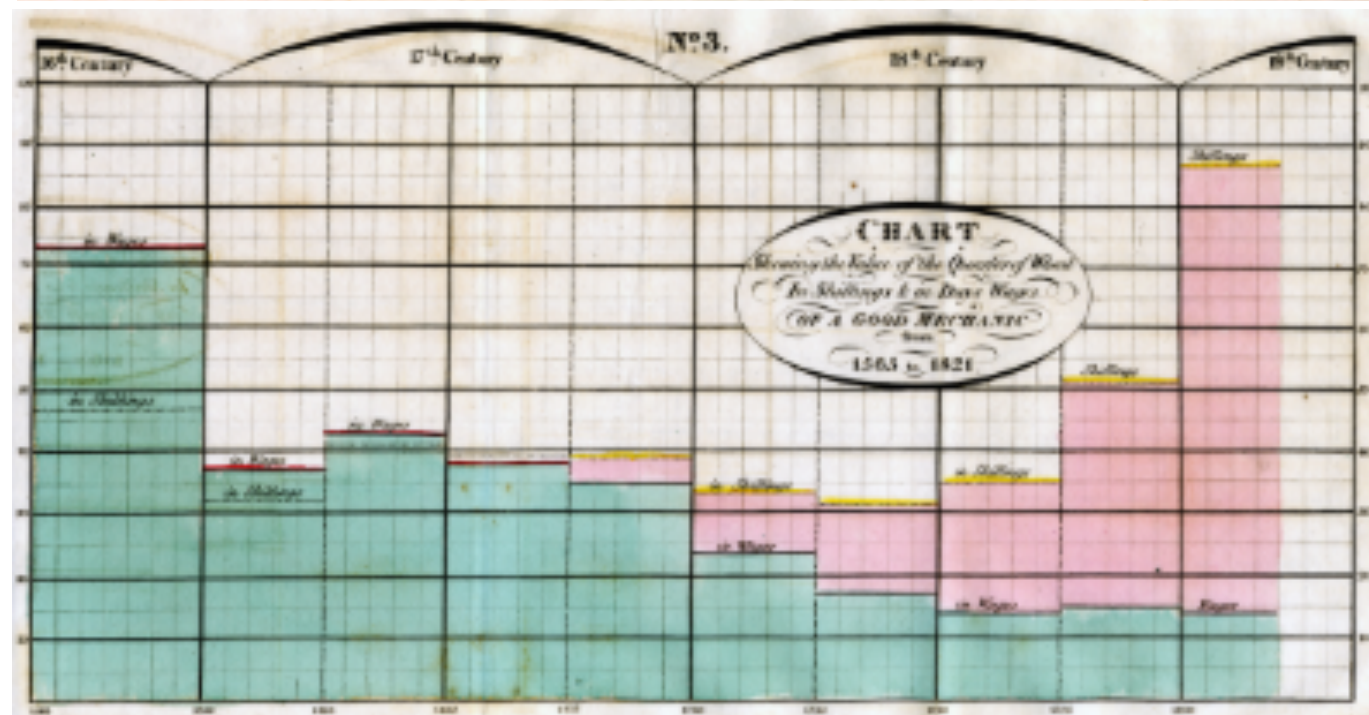
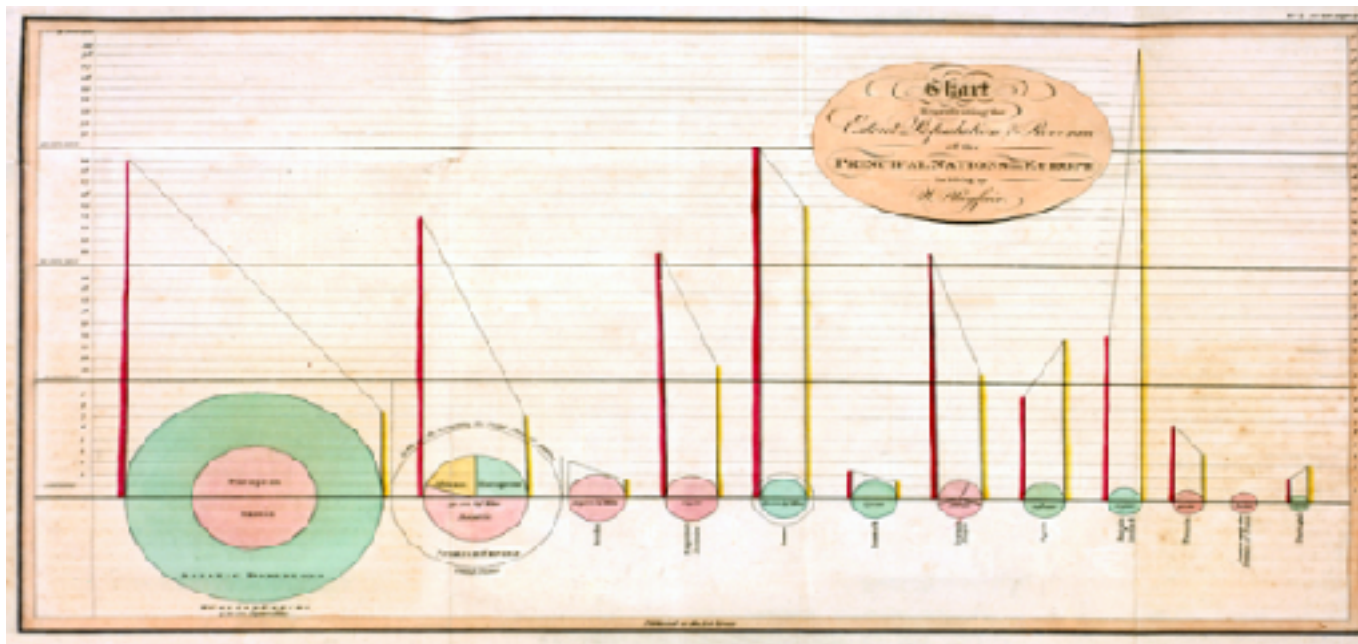
By WILLIAM PLAYFAIR.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,  
SIMILAR EXHIBITION OF THE RULING POWERS  
OF HINDOOSTAN.

LONDON:

Printed by T. BENSLEY, Bolt Court, Fleet Street,  
or J. WALLIS, 45, PATERNOSTER-ROW; CARPENTER and CO. Bond  
Street; EGERTON, Whitehall; VERNOR and HOOD, Poultry; BLACK  
and PARRY, Leadenhall Street; and TISSETT and DODD, St. James's  
Street.

1801.



THE  
COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL  
ATLAS,  
Representing, by Means of  
STAINED COPPER-PLATE CHARTS,  
THE  
PROGRESS OF THE COMMERCE, REVENUES, EXPENDITURE,  
AND DEBTS OF ENGLAND,  
DURING THE WHOLE OF THE  
EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.  
THE THIRD EDITION.  
Corrected and brought down to the End of 1801 Year.

By WILLIAM PLAYFAIR.

LONDON:  
Printed by T. BENSLEY, Little Queen-Street, LINCOLN'S-INN FIELDS,  
or J. WALLIS, 45, PATERNOSTER-ROW; CARPENTER and CO. Bond  
Street; EGERTON, Whitehall; VERNOR and HOOD, Poultry;  
BLACK and PARRY, LEADENHALL-STREET.

1801.





"tables of interest, discount, and exchange, tables of annuities, and other tables necessary in life insurances; tables of rates of various kinds necessary in general commerce" —Lardner

"time is money" —Franklin

## business interests

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### **sorting operation: the cogs in the clearing house wheel**

"In a large room in Lombard-street, about thirty clerks from the several London bankers take their stations ... at desks placed around the room. ... From time to time other clerks from every house enter the room, and passing along, drop into the box the checks due by that firm to the house from which this distributor is sent. ... The whole of these payments are made by a double system of balance, a very small amount of bank notes passing from hand to hand.

--Babbage, *On the Economy*, 1835

"[1839] £954 million was cleared--\$250 billion in today's money."

--Campbell-Kelly & Aspray



# business IT



**carbon paper**  
**Wedgewood, 1806**

**typewriter**

**Remington, 1874**

**calculator**

**Burroughs, 1892**



**cash register**  
**mechanical register, 1884**

"against the inattention, the idleness, or the dishonesty of human agents."  
—Babbage





"Situation wanted—by lady, rapid stenographer and typewriter."  
— *New York Herald* 1884

# information processors



## **clerks (UK)**

1871: 262,100

1891: 534,622

1911: 918,186

## **female clerks**

**1891: 17,859**

**1911: 117,057**

1921, women 46% of all clerks


## **typewriter girls**

1931, 212,296 female typists

5,155 male typists



LONDON'S Dreadful Visitation:  
Or, A COLLECTION of All the  
**Bills of Mortality**  
For this Present Year:  
Beginning the 27<sup>th</sup> of December 1664, and  
ending the 15<sup>th</sup> of December following:  
As also, The GENERAL or Whole year BILLS.  
According to the Report made to the  
KING's Most Excellent Majesty,  
by the Company of Parish-Clarks of London, &c.



LONDON:  
Printed by J. Streater, at the Sign of the Gun, in St. Dunstons Church-yard, near the North-Gate.

[illegible]

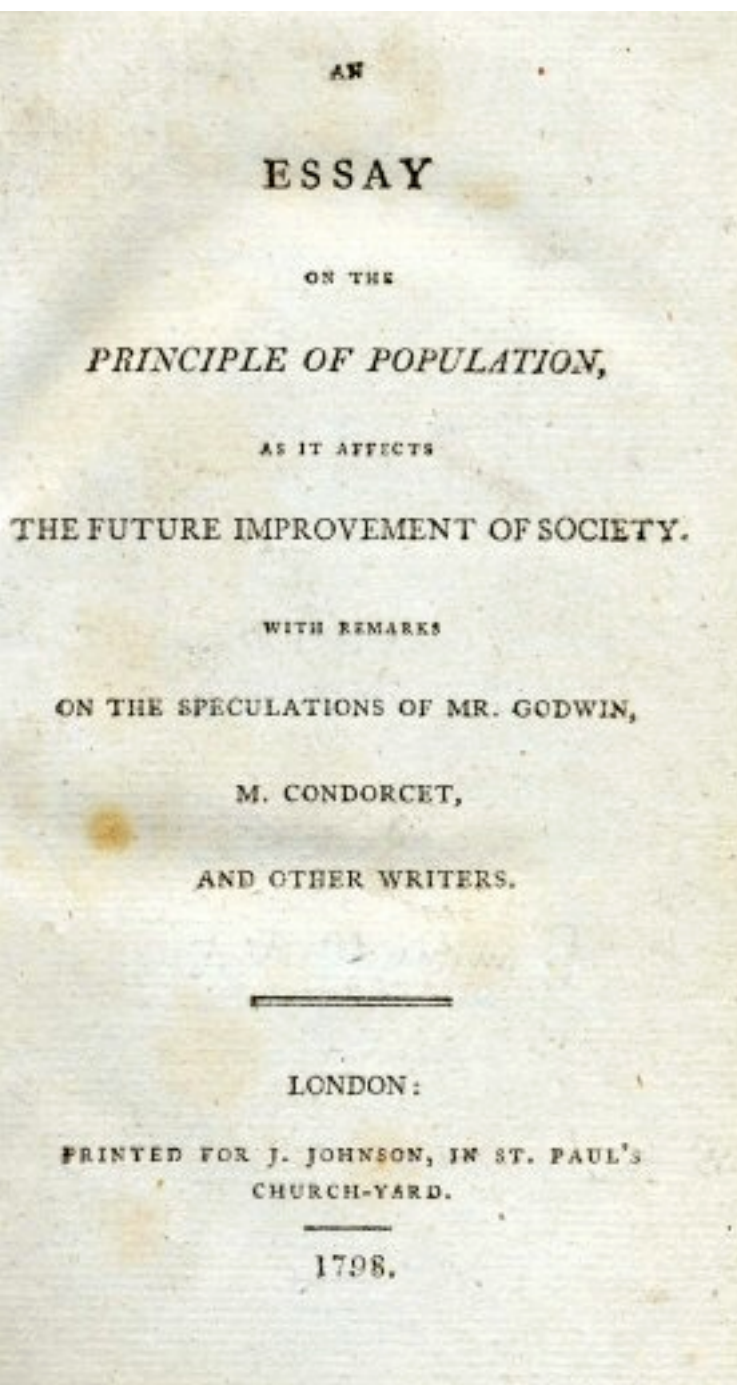
## social security

[illegible]

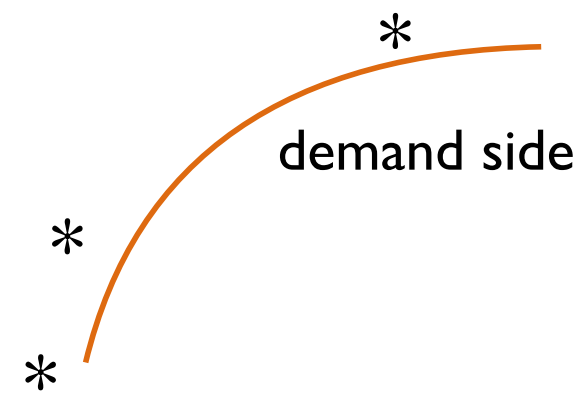
**Spain:** 1787  
**US:** 1790  
**UK:** 1801

"[An] Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct."

big data



| Year | Population | Gain       | Clerks |
|------|------------|------------|--------|
| 1900 | 76,212,168 | 13,232,402 | 21.0   |
| 1890 | 62,979,766 | 12,790,557 | 25.5   |
| 1880 | 50,189,209 | 11,630,838 | 30.2   |
| 1870 | 38,558,371 | 7,115,050  | 22.6   |
| 1860 | 31,443,321 | 8,251,445  | 35.6   |
| 1850 | 23,191,876 | 6,128,523  | 35.9   |
| 1840 | 17,063,353 | 4,202,651  | 32.7   |
| 1830 | 12,860,702 | 3,222,249  | 33.4   |
| 1820 | 9,638,453  | 2,298,572  | 33.1   |
| 1810 | 7,239,881  | 1,931,398  | 36.4   |
| 1800 | 5,308,483  | 1,379,269  | 35.1   |
| 1790 | 3,929,214  | -          | -      |



# tabulating tools



Herman Hollerith  
1860–1929

## Hollerith

### Electronic Tabulating Machine

#### 1890 Census

"This apparatus works unerringly as the mills of the gods, but beats them hollow as to speed."

—*The Electrical Engineer*, 11 Nov 1891

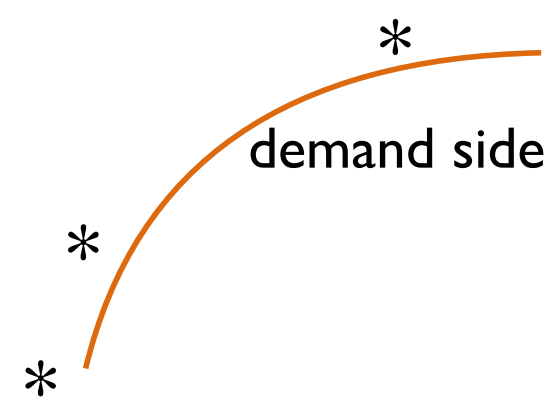
#### the punch card

|   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | CH | TH | Op | Da | On | En | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 0  | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | CL | UL | O  | Hz | Qd | Hz | 25 | 35 | 45 | 55 | 65 | 75 | 85 | 95 | 0  | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | CO | UD | HO | W  | H  | O  | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 0  | 1  | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |   |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | MO | BO | VO | W  | P  | 5  | 35 | 45 | 55 | 65 | 75 | 85 | 95 | 0  | 1  | 2  | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |   |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | JO | FO | TO | 7  | 1  | 10 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 0  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 0 |   |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | LO | HO | DO | 8  | 2  | 15 | 45 | 55 | 65 | 75 | 85 | 95 | 0  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 0 |   |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3  | UL | PL | 9  | 3  | 1  | 5  | 15 | 25 | 35 | 45 | 55 | 65 | 75 | 85 | 95 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |   |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | OH | SH | WH | 10 | 4  | 6  | 16 | 26 | 36 | 46 | 56 | 66 | 76 | 86 | 96 | 0  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |   |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | V  | IL | OL | 11 | 5  | 1  | 6  | 16 | 26 | 36 | 46 | 56 | 66 | 76 | 86 | 96 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |   |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | T  | 4  | 1  | 12 | 6  | 1  | 7  | 17 | 27 | 37 | 47 | 57 | 67 | 77 | 87 | 97 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |   |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8  | 5  | 2  | 13 | 7  | 1  | 8  | 18 | 28 | 38 | 48 | 58 | 68 | 78 | 88 | 98 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |   |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9  | 6  | 3  | 14 | 8  | 1  | 9  | 19 | 29 | 39 | 49 | 59 | 69 | 79 | 89 | 99 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |   |



"Hollerith ... managed to maintain a near monopoly by periodically filing for new key patents or by acquiring those of unsuccessful rivals."  
-- Mounier-Kuhn, 2012

# supply & demand: business & government



**Hollerith**

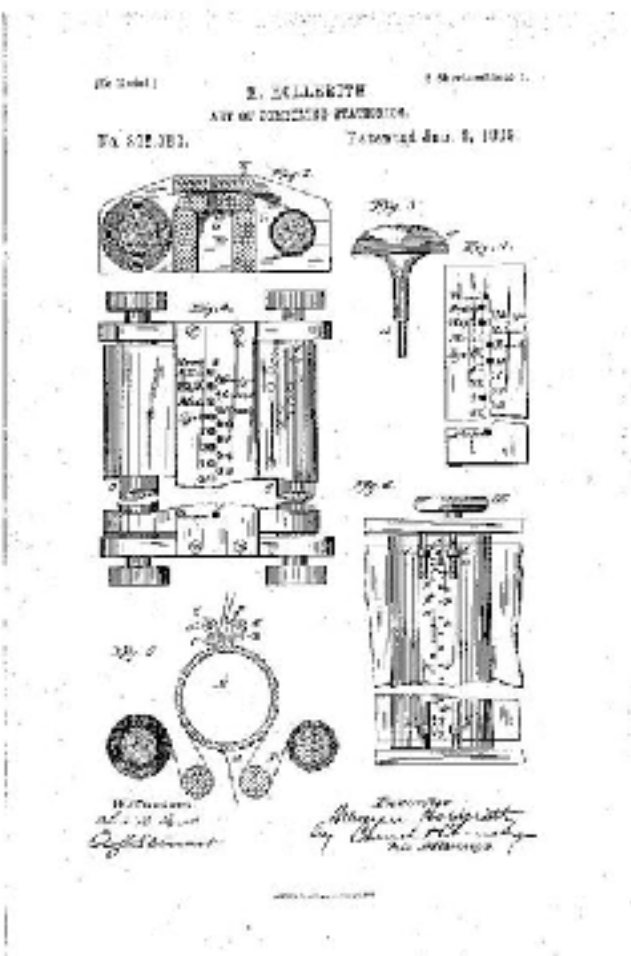
**Tabulating Machine Company**

**CTR:**

Computing-Tabulating-Recording Company

**Thomas Watson**

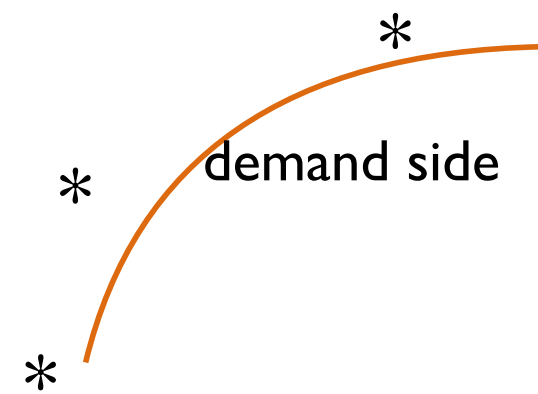
NCR to CTR to ...



IBM to pay more than \$30m in compensation for census fail, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull suggests

By political reporter [Henry Belot](#)

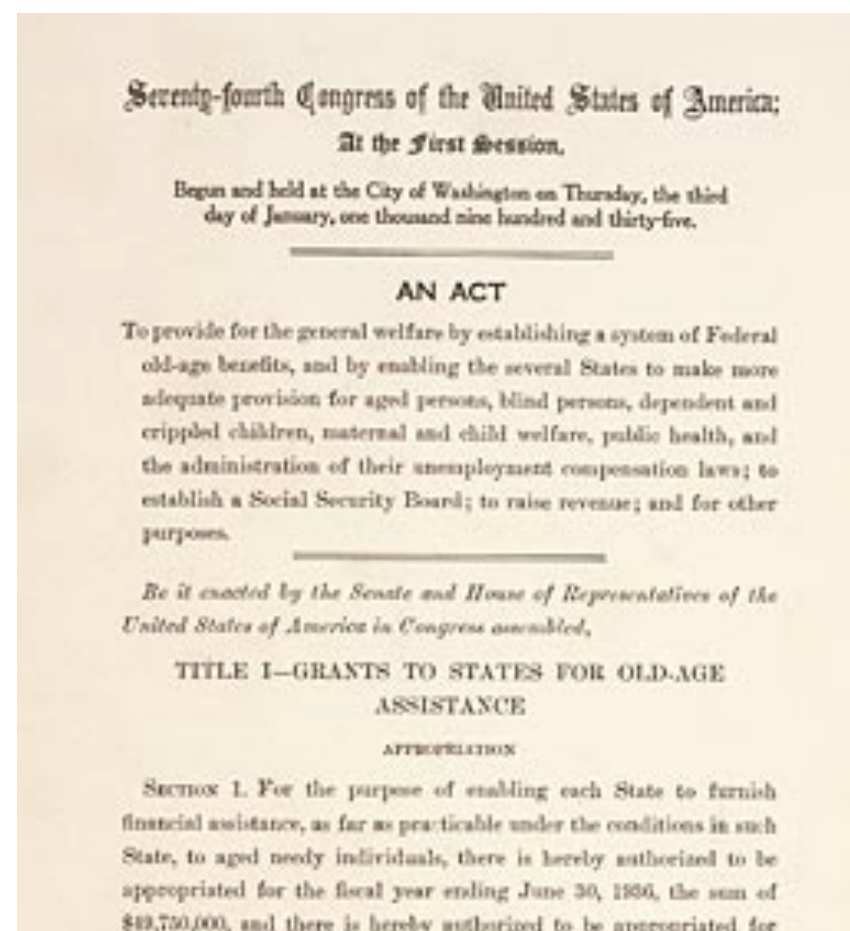
Updated 24 Nov 2016, 9:24pm

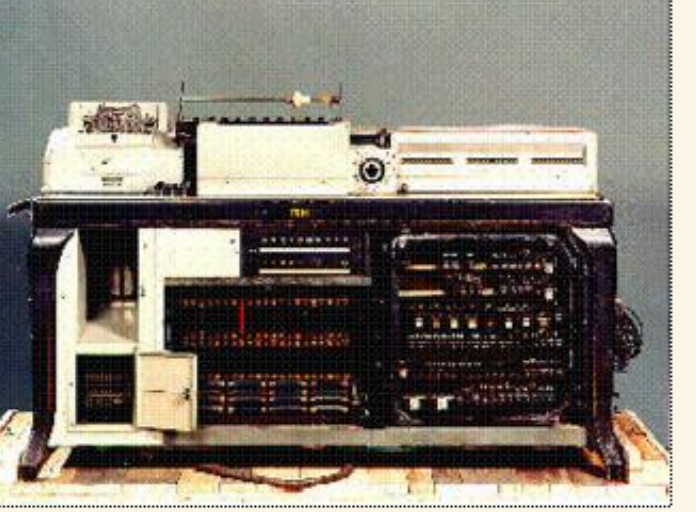


# a new deal

## Social Security Act, 1935

"the world's largest bookkeeping job"





Hollerith-Maschine Dehomag D11, die 1933 in Deutschland

# controlling numbers ...

| Personen |            | Familie         |               | Wohnung    |               | Beruf    |              | Einkommen   |         | Sonstige |         |
|----------|------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|---------------|----------|--------------|-------------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1. Name  | 2. Vorname | 3. Geburtsdatum | 4. Geburtsort | 5. Wohnort | 6. Wohnfläche | 7. Beruf | 8. Einkommen | 9. Sonstige | 10. ... | 11. ...  | 12. ... |

## controlling people

*The Nazi Census* --Aly & Roth, 2004

## IBM D I I

Census, 1933, 1939

| Merkmal |        | Werte  |        | Sonstige |        |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| 1. ...  | 2. ... | 3. ... | 4. ... | 5. ...   | 6. ... |

Labor Book, 1935

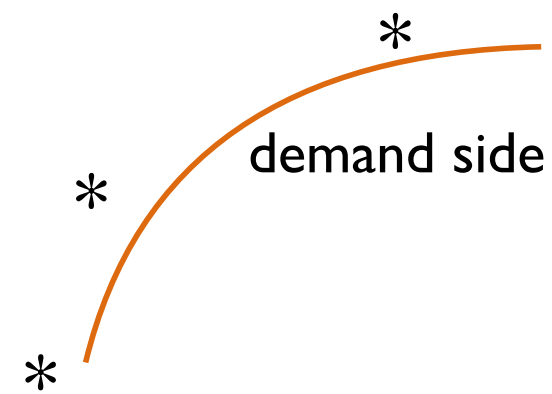
Health Pedigree book, 1936

Registry of the Populace, 1939

Blood (high, average, acceptable, inferior), 1940

Personal Identification Number, 1944





# still registering



WORLD

**India scans a billion irises in interest of national security**

Alice MacGregor Wed 16 Mar 2016 12:33pm

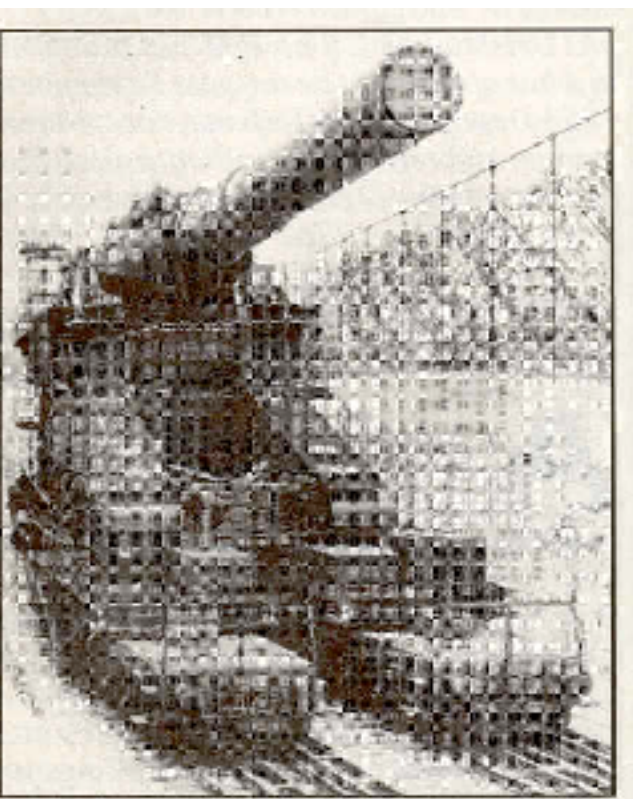


"sailors ... trace their family .. .names upon the wrist ... If it were possible for such a practice to become universal ... Who are you? ... no room for prevarication in the answer ... men were thus held as it were by an invisible chain."

-- Jeremy Bentham,  
*Principles of Penal Law* [1843]



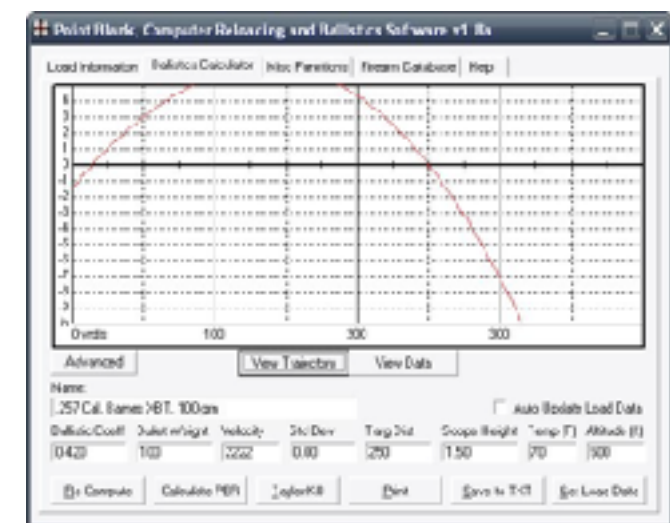
# military takeover



## ballistics "firing tables"

Vannevar Bush, 1935,

Differential Analyzer

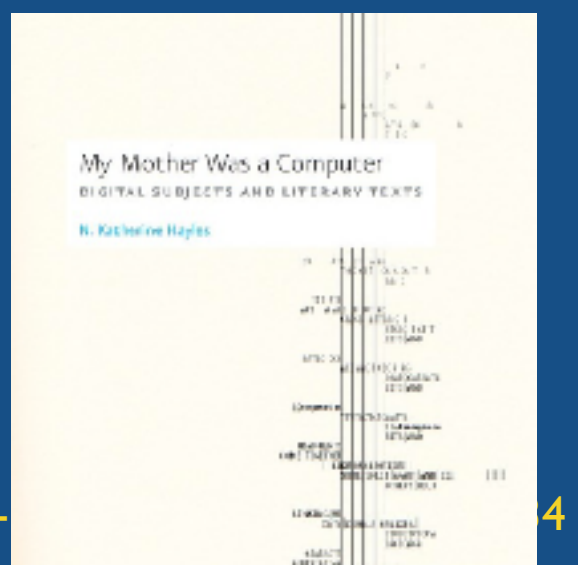


## analytical work

(Babbage)

Bush

Shannon, "A Symbolic Analysis of Relay and Switching Circuits," 1937

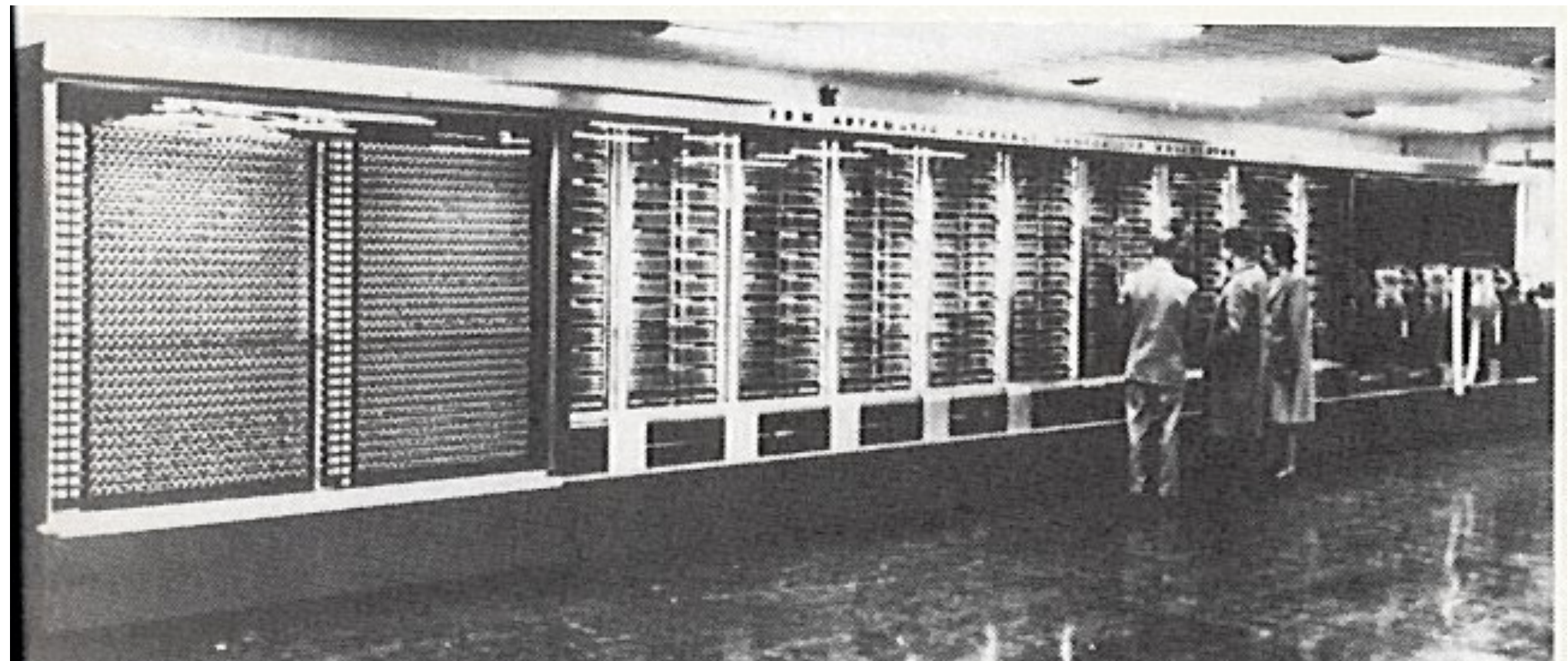






# Harvard mark I

aka **IBM Automatic Sequence Controlled Calculator, 1944**







John von  
Neumann  
1903–1957

# military processing

## **Moore School**

Aberdeen Proving Ground

Eckert & Mauchly

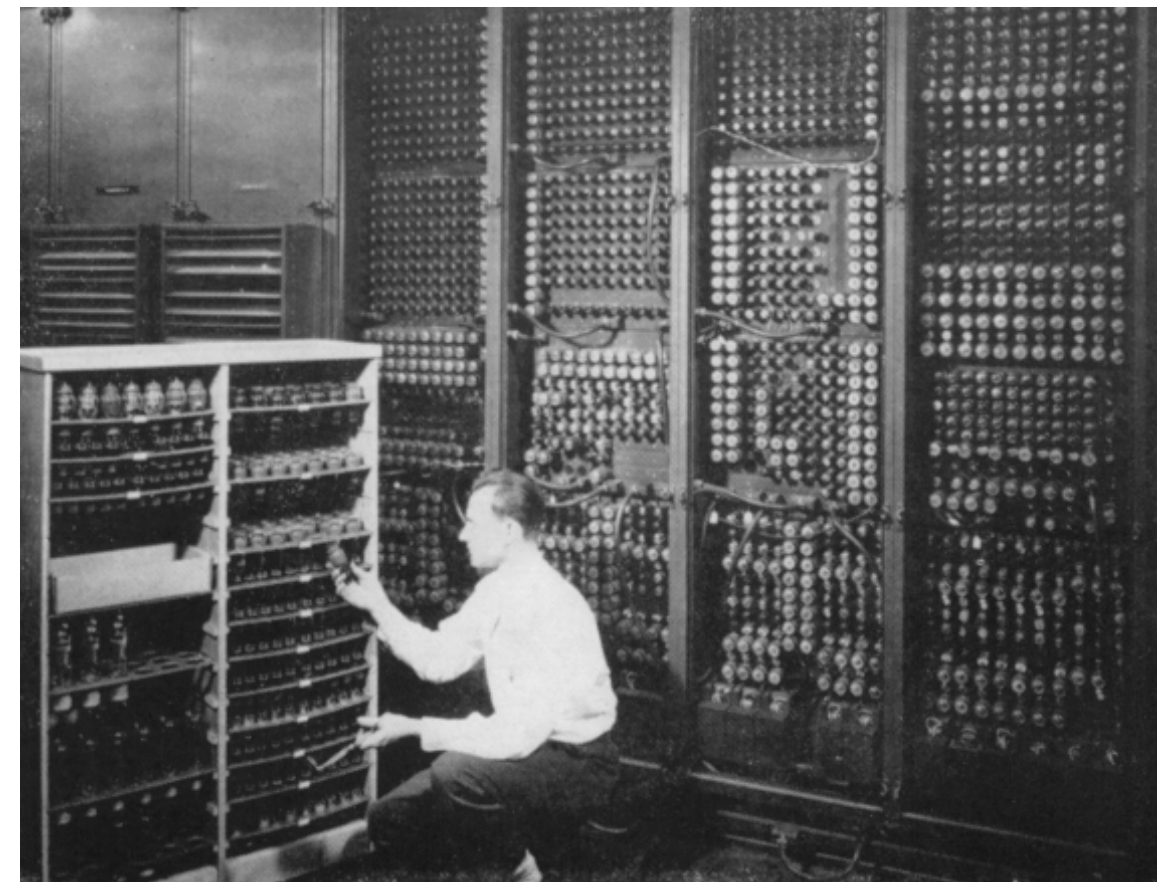
1945, ENIAC

stored-program

(Electronic Numerical Integrator Computer)

18,000 vacuum tubes, 70,000 resistors,

10,000 capacitors, 6,000 switches, 1,500 relays



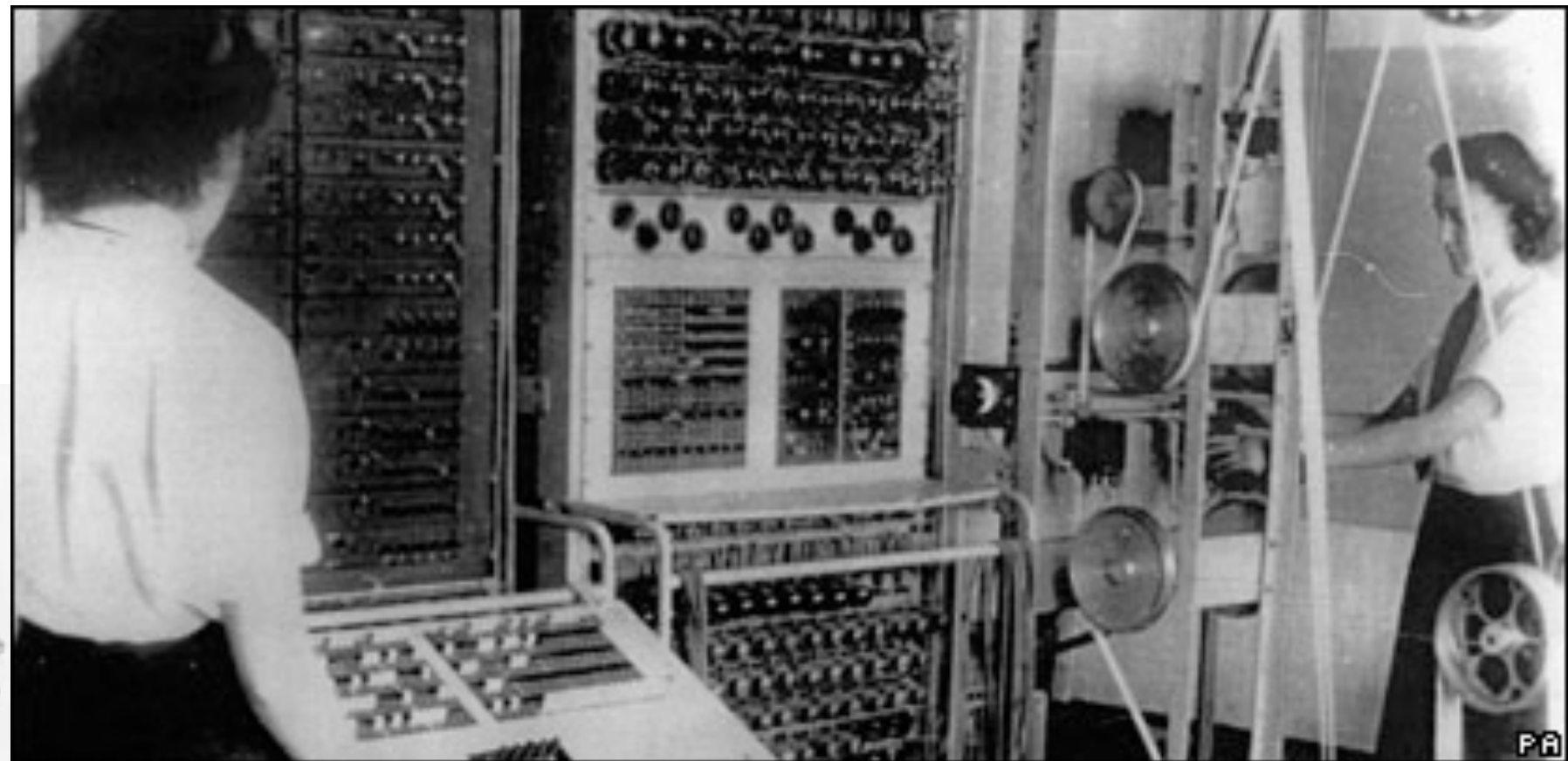


Alan Turing  
1912-1954



# decoding Enigma

**1943, Colossus  
Bletchley Park**





# THE MECHANICAL BRAIN

## ANSWER FOUND TO 300 YEAR-OLD SUM

From Our Special Correspondent

Experiments which have been in progress in this country and the United States since the end of the war to produce an efficient mechanical "brain" have been successfully completed at Manchester University, where a workable "brain" has been evolved. Not only is it working satisfactorily, but for the first time a machine has been brought to the point at which it can work out problems which it is practically impossible to execute on paper.

The Manchester "mechanical mind" was built by Professor F. C. Williams, of the Department of Electro-Technics, and is now in the hands of two university mathematicians, Professor M. H. A. Newman and Mr. A. W. Turing.

It has just completed, in a matter of weeks, a problem, the nature of which is not disclosed, which was started in the seventeenth century and is only just being completed by human calculation.

Its appearance is somewhat unprepossessing. It is composed of racks of electrical apparatus consisting of a mass of untidy wires, valves, chassis, and display tubes. When in action, the cathode ray becomes a pattern of dots which shows what information is in the machine. There is a close analogy between its structure and that of the human brain. It differs from other mechanical brains in its method of storing information. The electronic method ensures that information is more readily accessible.

### CALCULUS TO SONNET

Mr. Turing said yesterday: "This is only a foretaste of what is to come, and only the shadow of what is going to be. We have to have some experience with the machine before we really know its capabilities. It may take

years before we settle down to the new possibilities, but I do not see why it should not enter any one of the fields normally covered by the human intellect, and eventually compete on equal terms.

"I do not think you can even draw the line about sonnets, though the comparison is perhaps a little bit unfair because a sonnet written by a machine will be better appreciated by another machine."

Mr. Turing added that the university was really interested in the investigation of the possibilities of machines for their own sake. Their research would be directed to finding the degree of intellectual activity of which a machine was capable, and to what extent it could think for itself.

News of the experiments was disclosed by Professor Jefferson in the Lister oration reported in *The Times* yesterday.

*Times*, June 11, 1949

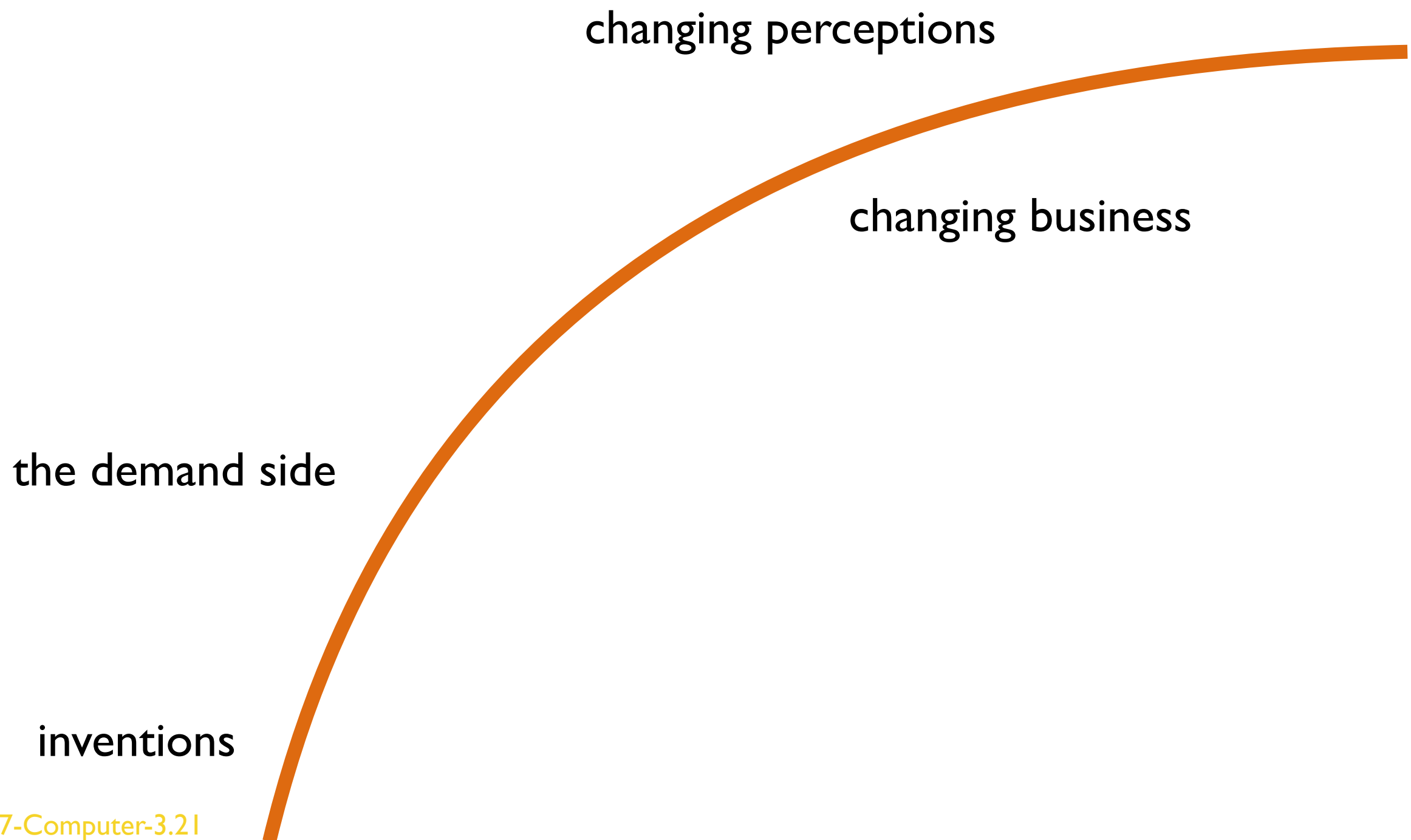
## back to Thamus

"In reports to the US government, and in funding requests to the military (to calculate the effects of thermonuclear explosions), **von Neumann** and his colleagues expressed the view that 'at most six or so machines should suffice for the whole country.' **Turing**, in an interview with the *Times* in 1949, declared: 'This is only a foretaste of what is to come, and only the shadow of what is going to be ... I do not see why it should not enter any one of the fields normally covered by the human intellect and eventually compete on equal terms.'"

—Philip Welch, *London Review of Books*, 2012



# Computer "Revolution"



## How a chain of tea shops kickstarted the computer age

In November 1951 a British company switched on the world's first business computer.



Image 1 of 3  
LEO at Lyons HQ in Hammersmith

By Christopher Williams, Technology Correspondent  
7:00AM GMT 10 Nov 2011



# back in business: vertical integration

**military - industrial complexities**  
from missiles *to* payroll to baking

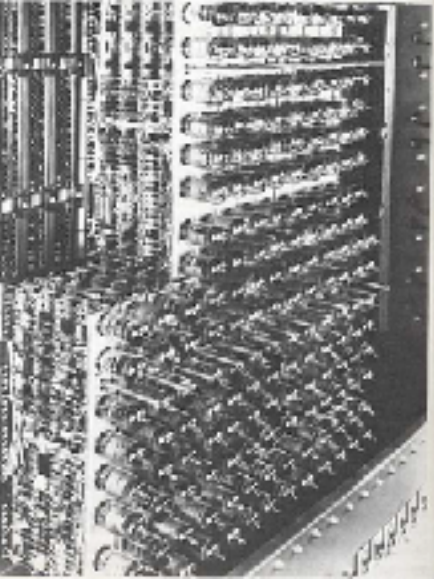
U. Penn: ENIAC, EDVAC, UNIVAC,  
Cambridge: EDSAC

*to*

LEO (Lyons electronic office)  
CLEO (Clear language for expressing  
orders)







Cathode-ray tube memory, from the IBM 701  
Defense Calculator, 1952

# breaking things down

---



## **1947 transistor**

*Bell Labs*

John Bardeen, William Brattain, William Shockley

## **1958 integrated circuit**

*Texas Instruments*

Jack Kilby



*Shockley*

*Fairchild*

*Intel*





# corporate computing

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## **1960 DEC PDP-1**

"programmable data processor"

## **1964 IBM 360**

## **1969 Xerox PARC**

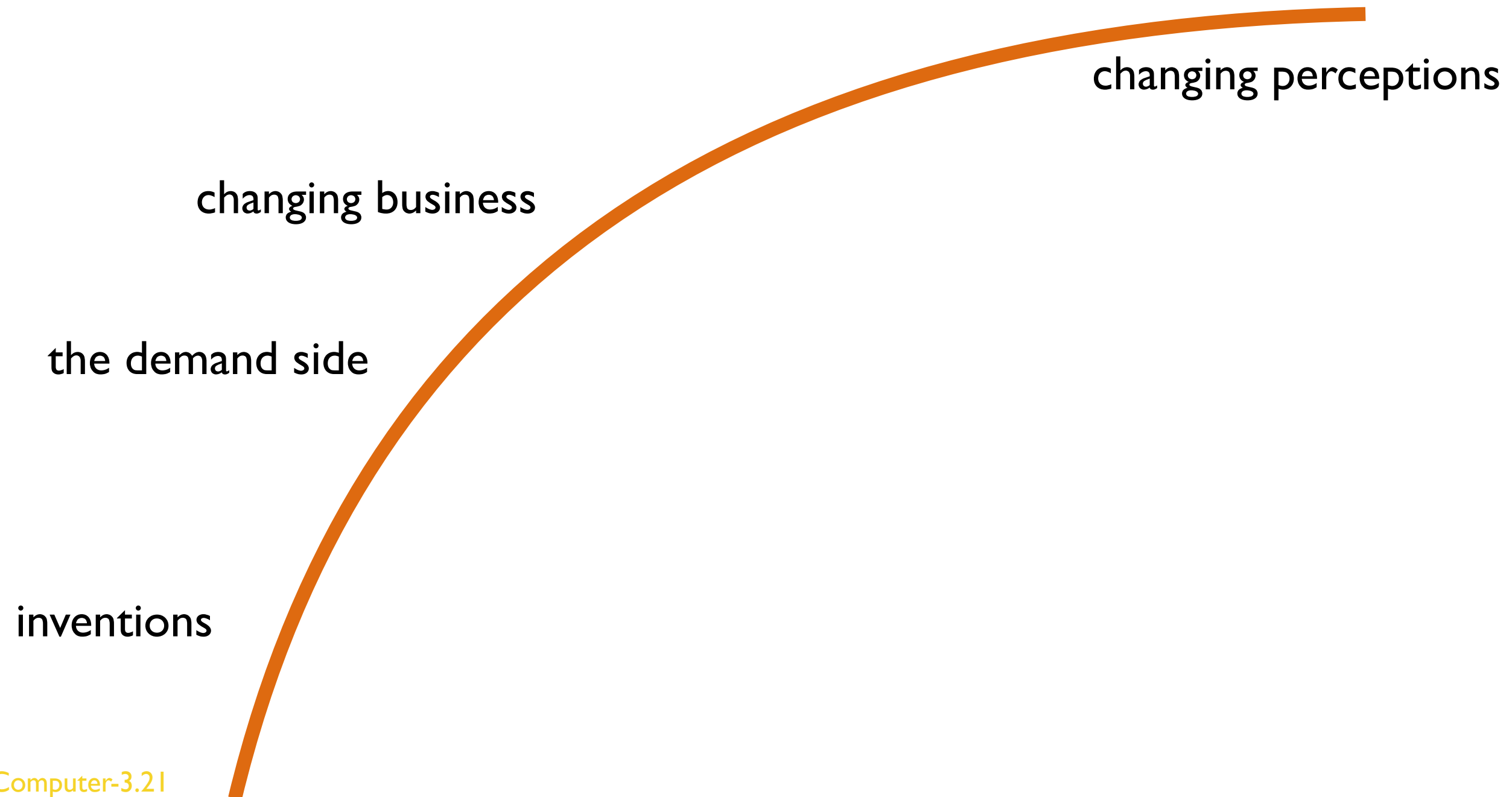
"the architecture of information"



**(1946 SRI**  
Doug Engelbart)



# Computer "Revolution"



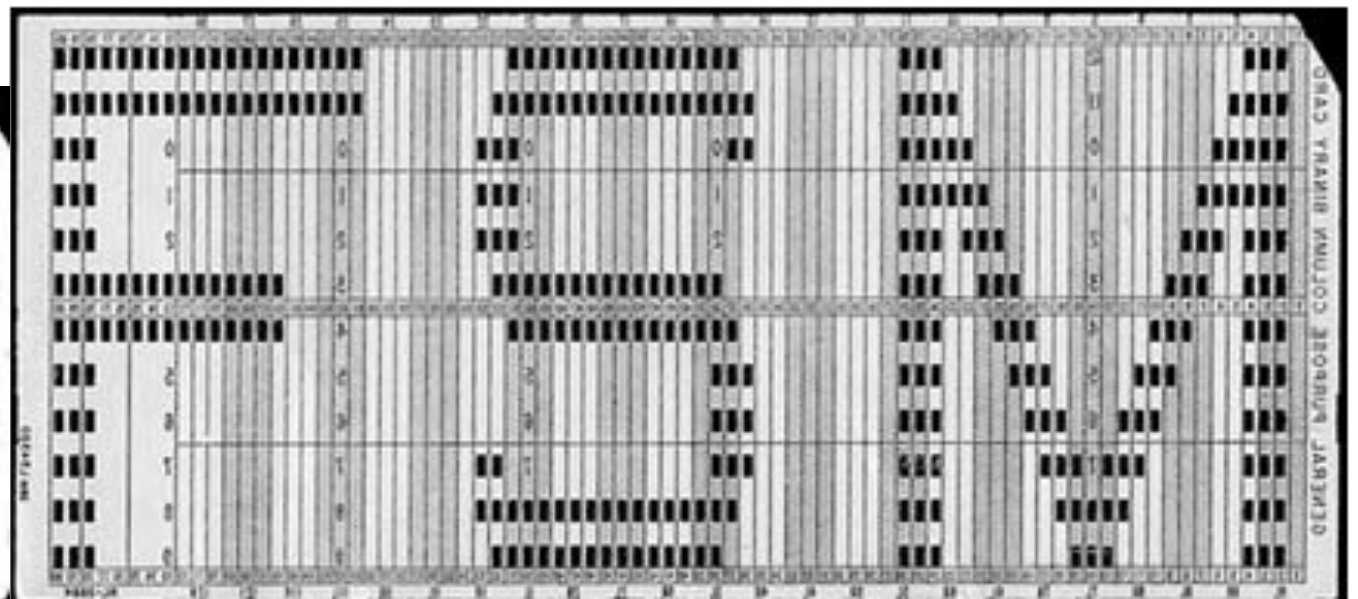
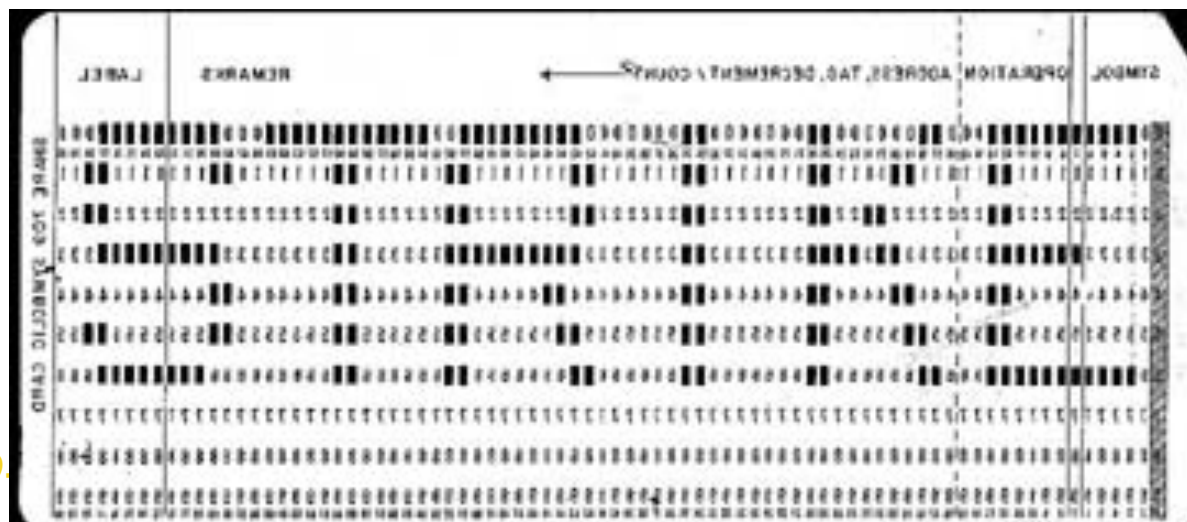


# rage against the machine

## FSM

"And you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus -- and you've got to make it stop! And you've got to indicate to the people who run it, to the people who own it -- that unless you're free the machine will be prevented from working at all!!" —Mario Savio, December 2, 1964

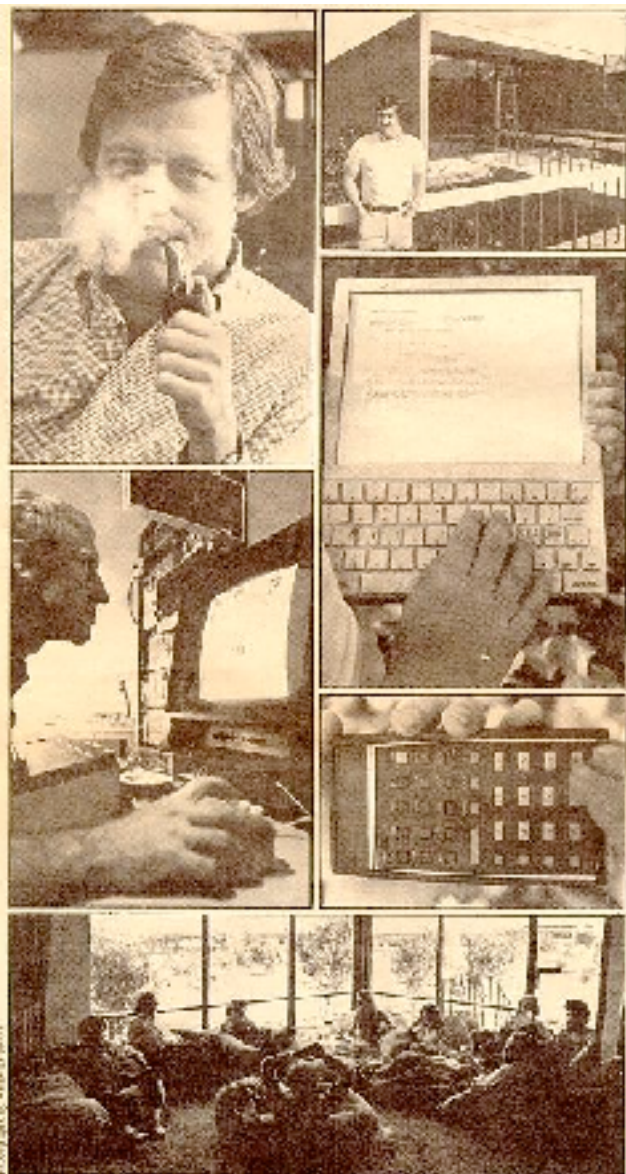
"I am a student at the University of California. Please do not fold, spindle or mutilate me."





changing perceptions

# fast forward



Stewart Brand, "Fanatic Life and Symbolic Death Among the Computer Bums"

--*Rolling Stone*, 7 December, 1972

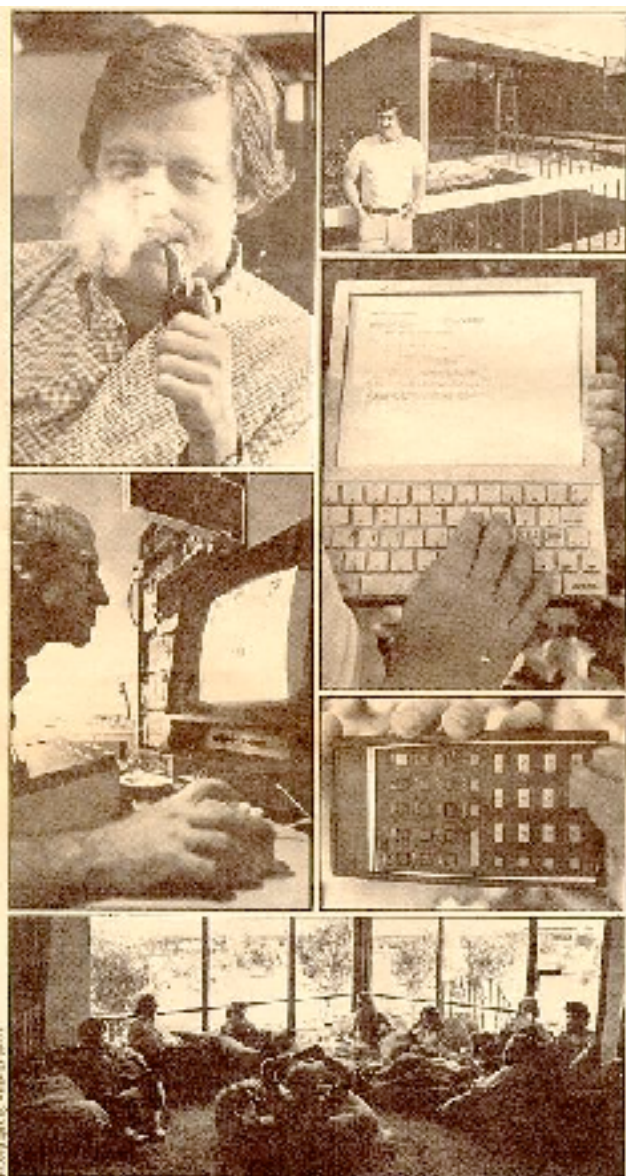
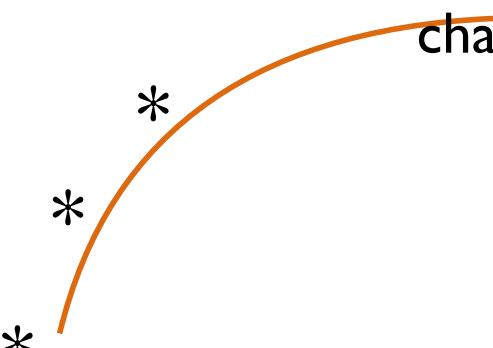
## a libertarian vision

Brand, Barlow, Dyson, Gilder, Kelly, Rosetto,

"the internet ... an exciting kind of metaphor  
for spontaneous order" — Gilder

Fred Turner, *From Cyberculture to Counterculture*, 2006

changing perceptions



Stewart Brand, "Fanatic Life and Symbolic Death Among the Computer Bums"

--*Rolling Stone*, 7 December, 1972

## a libertarian vision

Brand, Barlow, Dyson, Gilder, Kelly, Rosetto,

"the internet ... an exciting kind of metaphor  
for spontaneous order" — Gilder

Fred Turner, *From Cyberculture to Counterculture*, 2006





# culture clash

## home brew, fone freaks

1975 Altair

1976 Apple I

1983 Lisa

1982 GRID Compass

1984 Macintosh



### TECHNOLOGY

## *John Ellenby, Visionary Who Helped Create Early Laptop, Dies at 75*

By JOHN MARKOFF AUG. 26, 2016



The Compass computer became an important tool for corporations, government spies, White House officials and astronauts. GRID Systems

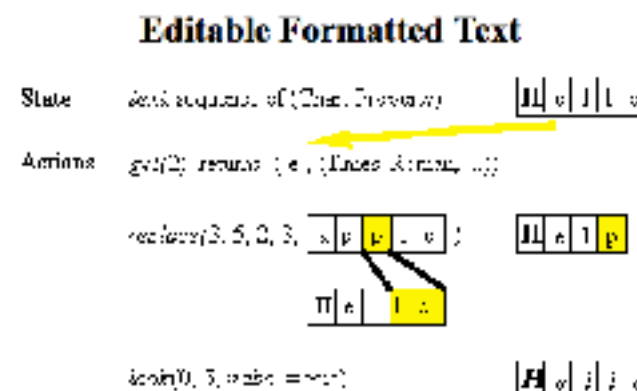
John Ellenby, a British-born computer engineer who played a critical role in paving the way for the laptop computer, died on Aug. 17 in San Francisco. He was 75.

changing perceptions

# killer apps



Bravo, 1974  
WYSIWYG



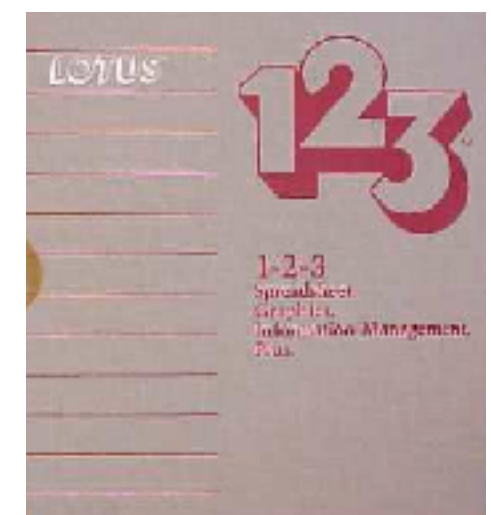
BS (U) +B3-B4  
Command: TDCDFGTGTHPTUW

|          | A | B     | C     | D     | E     |
|----------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 Year   |   | 1979  | 1980  | 1981  | 1982  |
| 2        |   |       |       |       |       |
| 3 Sales  |   | 54321 | 59768 | 65728 | 72301 |
| 4 Cost   |   | 41457 | 47002 | 52503 | 57041 |
| 5 Profit |   | 12864 | 11951 | 13146 | 14460 |
| 6        |   |       |       |       |       |
| 7        |   |       |       |       |       |
| 8        |   |       |       |       |       |
| 9        |   |       |       |       |       |
| 10       |   |       |       |       |       |
| 11       |   |       |       |       |       |
| 12       |   |       |       |       |       |

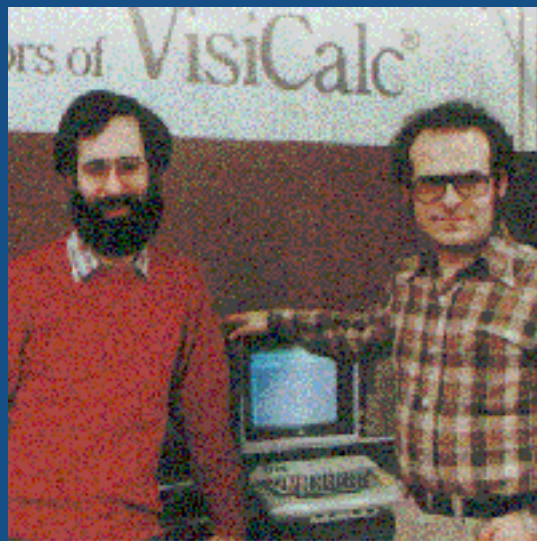
Visicalc, 1978

Lotus 1-2-3, 1983

Excel (for Mac), 1984



Charles Simonyi  
Xerox PARC



Dan Briklin &  
Bob Frankston





Ken Thompson  
Dennis Ritchie  
Bell Labs

tty;  
FILENAME  
CHANGEDIRECTORY PATHNAME

# another social revolution

---

## Thompson, Ritchie, & AT&T

1965:AT&T, MIT& GE work on multics

1969: multics to unix

"What we wanted to preserve was not just a good environment in which to do programming, but a system around which a fellowship could form. We knew from experience that the essence of communal computing, as supplied by remote-access, time-shared machines, is not just to type programs into a terminal instead of a keypunch, but to encourage close communication."

--Ritche, "Evolution of the Unix Time-Sharing System"

changing perceptions

# unix at ucb



Bill Joy  
UCB

1975: Thompson at Berkeley

Bill Joy develops em editor

1977: 1BSD (released March 1978)

1979: 3BSD (for Vax)

1981: 4.1BSD

1983: 4.2 BSD  
(with tcp/ip stack)

1-800-ITS-UNIX

A screenshot of a terminal window titled "RUN BSD42". The window displays the output of a system boot sequence. It shows disk space statistics for various partitions, the date and time (Mon Feb 6 02:53:18 PST 1981), and the status of various daemons (routed, telnetd, ftpd, talkd, syslog, sendmail). It also shows the preservation of editor files, clearing of /tmp, and the starting of network services (rshd, rexecd, rlogind, rwhod). The terminal then shows the login prompt for "4.2 BSD UNIX (myname)" and the login of "root". It displays the last login time (Thu Sep 8 19:45:39 on console) and the current date and time (Thu Sep 8 08:46:54 PDT 1983). The terminal ends with the prompt "Would you like to play a game?" and "You have mail." followed by the login prompt "Don't login as root, use su" and the user "myname" at the prompt.



changing perceptions

SO ...

1991: Networking release 2; 386 BSD

1992: AT&T sues UCB

1994 settlement: USL, UCB, Novell

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNIX SYSTEM LABORATORIES, INC.

Plaintiff,

vs.

BERKELEY SOFTWARE DESIGN, INC.,  
and certain named individuals in  
their collective capacity as The  
Regents of the University of  
California,

Defendants.

Civ. No. 92-1667  
O P I N I O N

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement is entered into between UNIX System Laboratories, Inc. ("USL"), a Delaware corporation, and The Regents of the University of California (the "University"), a California corporation.

Recitals

1. USL contends it is the owner of the intellectual property rights in portions of certain computer operating system software (the "UNIX System").

2. USL and USL's predecessor in interest, the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. ("AT&T"), have licensed the University to use certain versions of UNIX® system software,

changing perceptions

# elsewhere ...



Richard Stallman  
MIT



Linus Torvalds  
Helsinki

```
From: torvalds@klaava.Helsinki.FI (Linus Benedict Torvalds)
Newsgroups: comp.os.minix
Subject: What would you like to see most in minix?
Summary: small poll for my new operating system
Message-ID:
Date: 25 Aug 91 20:57:08 GMT
Organization: University of Helsinki
```

Hello everybody out there using minix -

I'm doing a (free) operating system (just a hobby, won't be big and professional like gnu) for 386(486) AT clones. This has been brewing since april, and is starting to get ready. I'd like any feedback on things people like/dislike in minix, as my OS resembles it somewhat (same physical layout of the file-system (due to practical reasons) among other things).

I've currently ported bash(1.08) and gcc(1.40), and things seem to work. This implies that I'll get something practical within a few months, and I'd like to know what features most people would want. Any suggestions are welcome, but I won't promise I'll implement them :-)

Linus (torvalds@kruuna.helsinki.fi)

PS. Yes - it's free of any minix code, and it has a multi-threaded fs. It is NOT protable (uses 386 task switching etc), and it probably never will support anything other than AT-harddisks, as that's all I have :-).





# changing perceptions?

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**open & shut cases**

## WIRED

### 101 Ways to Save Apple

By James Daly

**An assessment of what can be done to fix a once-great company.**

Dear Apple,

In the movie *Independence Day*, a PowerBook saves the earth from destruction. Now it's time you look a little beleaguered these days: a confusing product line, little inspiration from the

But who wants to live in a world without you? Not us. So we surveyed a cross section of hard-core Apple users. But who wants to live in a world without you? Not us. So we surveyed a cross section of hard-core Apple users. But who wants to live in a world without you? Not us. So we surveyed a cross section of hard-core Apple users.

We don't believe Apple is rotten to the core. Chrysler nearly went under in the late 1970s and was saved by a miracle. We don't believe Apple is rotten to the core. Chrysler nearly went under in the late 1970s and was saved by a miracle.

Edited by James Daly

**1. Admit it. You're out of the hardware game.** Outsource your hardware production, or at least your manufacturing boxes.

**2. License the Apple name/technology to appliance manufacturers and build GUIs for them.** All use the same communications protocol. Result: you monopolize the market for smart appliances.





# changing perceptions?



Grace Hopper  
compiler  
COBOL



Margaret Hamilton  
NASA



Katherine Johnson  
NASA



Adele Goldberg  
Smalltalk — OOP  
Xerox

Grace Hopper, Margaret Hamilton  
receive Presidential Medals of Freedom





## in sum

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**keep an eye not only on production but on consumption**

- who uses**
- why?**
- how does that influence what gets built?**

**more revolutions**

- going open**
- going closed**
- hiding history**



## 23 March: Midterm Exam



# ahead

### WEEK 11

27-31 March: Spring Break

### WEEK 12

4 April: Broadcast

The shaping of radio and television in the twentieth century was a product of complex interactions between the developers of the technology, the military, the state, commercial interests, and public institutions, which led to broadcast media taking different forms in different nations. These issues are still with us as "broadcast" moves to a new technological base.

#### *Required Reading*

Czitrom, Daniel J. 1982. "The Ethereal Hearth: American Radio from Wireless through Broadcasting, 1892-1940," pp. 60-88. in *Media and the American Mind*. University of North Carolina Press.

Source: Course reader.

Bliven, Bruce. 1924. "Radio's Promise and Pitfalls." in David Welky, ed. *America Between the Wars, 1919-1941: A Documentary Reader*. Wiley. pp. 85-88. Source: Google Books [[link](#) ↗ ]



# assignment

---

Writing in 1924, Bruce Bliven makes a number of predictions about the future of radio, some negative and some positive, and adds some others from engineers who are enthusiastic about the possibilities for the medium. Some of these are similar to the predictions that people have made for the Internet. Pick one prediction that did not come true for radio (including broadcast television) but that in your opinion will be (or has been) realized for the Internet. Pick one prediction that was realized for radio but is unlikely to be realized for the Internet. How do you account for the differences? Finally, pick one prediction that is unlikely to be realized for either medium. Consult Czitrom for observations about the early history of radio.

(Note: a prediction that X will not happen should be considered realized if X does not happen, and as not realized if X does happen.)