



ACM APPOINTMENTS

Arthur C. Downing, Jr. has been appointed Chairman of the Special Interest Committee on Numerical Methods. Dr. Downing is on the Mathematics Panel of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee.

Herbert Keller has accepted the position of Editor of the ACM Monograph Series, replacing Richard Hamming. The ACM Monographs are definitive research or expository manuscripts which are sufficiently long and self-contained to warrant independent publication. The Macmillan Company, New York, is the present publisher. Dr. Keller is a Professor in the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University.

LEADERS FOR 1963 SJCC PICKED

Dr. E. C. Johnson, general chairman of the 1963 Spring Joint Computer Conference to be held May 21-23 at Cobo Hall, Detroit, Michigan, has announced the following executive planning staff:

Vice Chairman, D. E. Hart, General Motors Research Laboratories; secretary, R. C. Sims, Bendix Research Laboratories; treasurer, D. V. Burchfield, Touche, Ross Bailey and Smart.

Technical program: chairman, B. W. Pollard, Burroughs Corporation; associate chairman, B. A. Galler, University of Michigan.

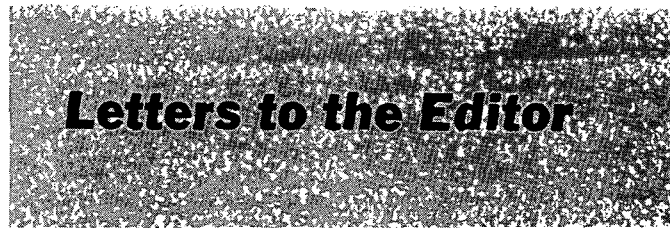
Local arrangements, W. R. Forsythe, IBM Corporation; exhibits, A. D. Meacham, American Data Processing, Inc.; printing and mailing, Gwyn Williams, Michigan Bell Telephone Company; proceedings, Barrett Hargreaves, General Motors Research Laboratories; registration, R. K. Loudon, IBM Corporation; public relations, J. L. McKelvie, Bendix Industrial Controls; special events, G. L. Licht, General Motors Research Laboratories.

The conference is unique in that it is the first JCC to be held in the midwest. Joint Computer Conferences are by tradition held on the east or west coasts and have previously been known as the eastern and western JCC's. However, with establishment of the American Federation of Information Processing Societies in 1961 as the sponsoring body, the conferences were changed to spring and fall JCC's. As eastern conferences were formerly scheduled for November-December with accompanying risks of bad weather, the 1963 SJCC was moved to Detroit and the 1963 FJCC to the west coast. The Detroit conference realigns the schedule so that those on the east coast will in the future be held during the milder season.

LOCATION CHANGES FOR JCC CONFERENCES

The FJCC, November 12-14, 1963, previously scheduled for Los Angeles, has been changed to the Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada, and the SJCC, May 26-28, 1964 has been changed from Boston to the new Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D. C., which is scheduled for completion October,

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More on Using an IF Statement for bed Comparison

Dear Editor:

With reference to Mr. Otto Mond's Letter to the Editor, entitled "Using an IF Statement for bed Comparison" [*Comm. ACM* 5 (Feb. 1962), A10], there is an alternative programming scheme worthy of consideration. Fundamentally, a comparison of two bed bit patterns can be founded on a bit-by-bit module-2 sum (EXCLUSIVE OR) of the two patterns. This bed comparison concept may be symbolically expressed as follows:

Compute $z = x \oplus Y$, where x and y are bed bit patterns;
if $z = 0$, then $x = y$;
if $z \neq 0$, then $x \neq y$.

The alternative programming scheme, which satisfies the above concept, utilizes one FUNCTION statement to define a fixed-point subtraction involving two fixed-point variables. For example, the source program typifying this bed comparison concept would be:

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XSUBF (IX, IY) = IX - IY
:
IF (XSUBF (X, Y)) = 20, 10, 20

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The compilation of this source program would result in an object program in which no bit pattern modification of the X and Y arguments occurs. Hence, a valid bed comparison results.

This programming scheme requires only one FUNCTION statement, whereas in Mr. Mond's programming scheme each floating-point variable, subjected to a bed comparison, must be itemized in the string of arguments composing the EQUIVALENCE statement. It is my opinion that this programming scheme can be more efficiently implemented since it inherently requires less detail and is independent of programming modifications.

ROBERT P. LARSEN
General Electric Company
Utica, N. Y.

Still More on bed Comparisons

Dear Editor:

The following is to take almost trivial exception to R. E. Dickie's letter [*Comm. ACM* (June, 1962)] taking "not-quite-trivial" exception to Otto Mond's letter [Feb. 1962 issue] concerning bed comparisons. Mr. Dickie's solution does not work for $IX = 000000000000$ and $IY = 777777777777_8$, giving a zero result when the numbers being compared are far different. Having fallen into the trap of using the statement "if and only if" myself, I can only add that since the "carrying" properties of the ACL instruction may lead to an erroneous comparison, I think that the substitution of ADD will solve the problem.

MARY FERGUSON
System Development Corporation
Santa Monica, California