

seminars

CERN PARTICLE PHYSICS SEMINAR

Monday, December 17
14.30
Auditorium

"New results from the Irvine Conference"
by Ch. Llewellyn-Smith / CERN

CERN COLLOQUIUM

Tuesday, December 18
16.30
Auditorium

"Simple acoustics of the violin; Did Stradivari have a secret ?"
by W.F. Fry / University of Wisconsin

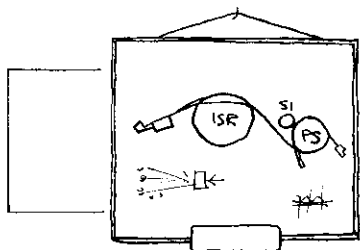
CERN COMPUTER SEMINAR

Monday, January 7, 1974
16.00
Council Chamber

"Past, present and future in the Computer World"
by Professor M.V. Wilkes, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England

Abstract : The digital computer era began in the late 1940s when the early stored program computers first came into operation. These machines seemed enormous at the time - giant brains is what the newspapers insisted on calling them - but they were, in fact, less powerful than the minicomputers of today. About 1960, some people were saying that the field was about to stabilise. Instead, it continued to expand in all directions and is still expanding. It survived the semi-conductor revolution and has found new strength for expansion in an alliance with the communications field. Some people are saying that the computer world is being smothered by its own software - a term, incidentally, that those who spoke about the field stabilising had not heard. I, personally, see no cause for alarm about software. We are going through a phase in which most of the software on offer from vendors is a long way behind the state of the art. What we must realise is that good software is produced not by factory operatives, but by responsible professionals.

I regard the computer world as a triangle, with computing power, bulk storage, and communications along the sides, and software in the middle. Bulk storage has so far developed along mechanical lines, but there are signs that non-rotating devices will eventually take over. Computing power is now easily available and, indeed, pocket calculators seem in their turn likely to surpass in power the early digital computers. The free-standing computer may become the exception rather than the rule and perhaps even pocket calculators will develop radio links. I hope that it is not wishful thinking to see signs that computers are having a rejuvenating effect on communications.



enseignement

ENSEIGNEMENT TECHNIQUE

Travaux de diplômes de futurs ingénieurs - techniciens de l'Ecole Technique Supérieure de Genève

L'Ecole Technique Supérieure de Genève, par l'intermédiaire du Service de l'Enseignement, propose au CERN de prendre en charge l'étude et la réalisation d'appareillages électroniques dans le cadre des travaux de diplômes de futurs ingénieurs-techniciens.