

113[Z].—MARTIN H. WEIK, PB 111996, *A Survey of Domestic Electronic Digital Computing Systems* (Reprint of Ballistic Research Laboratory Report No. 971), United States Department of Commerce, Office of Technical Services, Washington, D. C., 1956, vii + 272 p., 28 cm. Price \$4.75.

It is certainly not easy to remain abreast of developments in the electronic computer field. This survey helps to bring up-to-date (end of 1955) a broad picture of the field in the United States. Previous surveys of a similar nature date back to 1953 and are now obsolescent.

Eighty-four "Domestic Electronic Digital Computing Systems" are described in the report. Two foreign manufacturers, Ferranti and Olivetti, are represented, presumably because these companies have U. S. sales organizations. On the other hand at least some U. S. computers are missing, for example Harvard Mark IV, UNIVAC 120, and UNIVAC File Computer. It would be highly desirable if all foreign computers could be added to the list together with annual supplements.

The descriptive information on each system runs from 2 to 4 pages and generally includes photographs, manufacturer, user(s), arithmetic and logical organization, size, cooling and power, input-output and memory data, production record and price, and operating experience.

Much of the information was obtained from manufacturers and users. For this reason, as the editor points out, care must be taken when comparing detailed minute points since the contributors may have used different frames of reference. Anyone considering the acquisition of a computer could use the information in the survey to select a small group of computers for further consideration. The survey would be very useful for familiarization purposes.

A chapter on Analysis and Trends follows the system description. The machines are listed in a number of ordered tables according to the characteristics of word length, add time, memory capacity, memory access time, tube and diode quantities, power requirements and cost. In addition the editor gives his opinion of trends in the field.

A brief bibliography and a glossary of computer terms are included.

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TABLE ERRATA

Reviews and papers in this issue mention errata in the following works:

A. ASHOUR & A. SABRI, "Tabulation of the function $\psi(\theta) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin n\theta}{n^2}$,"

Review 105, p. 250.

ROBERT E. GREENWOOD, "Coupon collector's test for random digits," Review 96, p. 243.

H. HASSE, *Vorlesungen über Zahlentheorie*, p. 197.

F. G. TRICOMI, "Valori numerici di ortogonali di Laguerre," Review 103, p. 248.

BALTH. VAN DER POL, *Atlas of Ground-Wave Propagation Curves for Frequencies between 30 Mc/s and 300 Mc/s*, Review 110, p. 256.

- 249.—W. MÜLLER, "Viscous flow within cylindrical boundaries," *Ann. d. Physik.* [MTAC, v. 1, 1944, p. 263.]

Items 7 and 9, for $J_0(rj_{1,n})$ read $J_1(rj_{1,n})$.

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- 250.—HERBERT E. SALZER, "On numbers expressible as the sum of four tetrahedral numbers," *London Math. Soc., Jn.*, v. 20, 1945, p. 3-4.

The following erratum has been found:

Page 3, line 25, *the number 107 was omitted. It should be inserted between numbers 103 and 137.*

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- 251.—GEORGE WELLINGTON SPENCELEY, RHEBA MURRAY SPENCELEY, & EUGENE RHODES EPPERSON, *Smithsonian Logarithmic Tables to Base e and Base 10*, The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., 1952.

The following errata have been found.

- p. 336, log 6686, first figure, *for 6 read 8*
- p. 342, log 6997, third figure, *for 9 read 4*
- p. 349, log 7347, fourth figure, *for 0 read 1*
- p. 364, log 8100, first figure, *for 8 read 9.*

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NOTES

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