



Rutherford Laboratory

Technical leaflet

C. 4.1

The IBM System/360-75I and DDP-224 Computer Complex

The 360-75 is the Laboratory's main computer. It has 524288 bytes (quarter-words) of 750 nanosecond main memory. It can manage several jobs concurrently, for instance a conventional computing job and several on-line jobs, which are acquiring data from experiments or measuring devices in real time via a fast data link to the nearby DDP-224 computer.

The DDP is a small fast computer (12288 words of 1.9 microsecond main memory) which has extensive interrupt and input-output facilities. To it can be attached measuring devices (e.g. the Hough-Powell and Cathode-Ray-Tube film scanners), experimental equipment (possibly via a remote computer in the experimental area) and typewriters through which physicists can communicate with their programs running in the 360 machine.

Software has been written in the Rutherford Laboratory to synchronise the actions of the two machines, so that several on-line users simultaneously can benefit from the data-processing power of the 360 and the data-gathering and data-disseminating power of the DDP. This software takes care of all communication between the two machines, and the collection and dispatch of messages for the typewriters. IBM software protects the multiprogramming in the 360, and at the same time schedules a stream of non-on-line jobs.