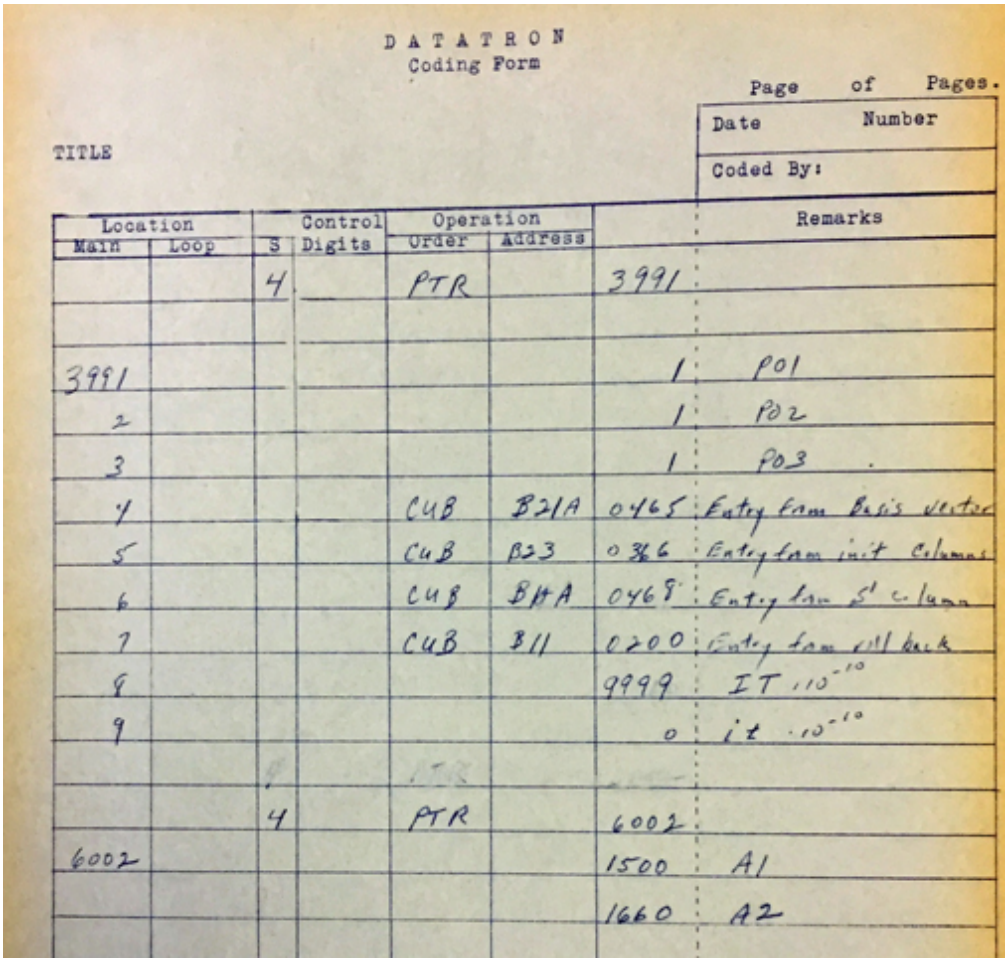
News from Nan

COMPUTER HISTORY

THE EARLY DAYS OF COMPUTERS, CODING IN MACHINE LANGUAGE

JULY 11, 2017 | DICK

From 2014 to 2020 we researched and cataloged over 5000 items (hardware, software, and text) at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California. We sometimes blogged about our experiences and the fascinating items we encountered; this post is part of that set.



DATATRON
Coding Form

Page of Pages.

TITLE

Date Number

Coded By:

Location Main	Location Loop	Control S	Control Digits	Operation Order	Operation Address		Remarks
		4		PTR		3991	
3991						1	P01
2						1	P02
3						1	P03
4				CUB	B21A	0465	Entry from Basis vector
5				CUB	B23	0386	Entry from init Columns
6				CUB	B#A	0468	Entry for S' column
7				CUB	B11	0200	Entry from old deck
8						9999	IT ,10^-10
9						0	it .10^-10
		4		PTR		6002	
6002						1500	A1
						1660	A2

Datatron Coding Form

A week ago we were cataloging some documents from the Burroughs Corporation when we happened upon an ancient coding form. This was for writing code for the Datatron 205, an early 1950s computer.

Burroughs bought Datatron in 1956.

The coding form is interesting because the code is in machine language, the predecessor to assembler language. The page in the image above was part of a linear programming code. All of the addresses on the form are absolute rather than symbolic.

Along with the coding forms, we found detailed flowcharts describing how the code was supposed to work.

2017 BURROUGHS CORPORATION CODING FORM COMPUTER HISTORY MUSEUM DATATRON MACHINE CODING