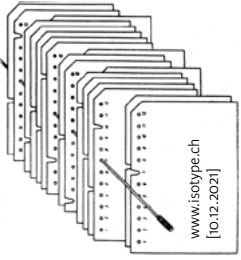


The edge punched cards serve for storing and sorting data. The meaning of each hole is clearly indicated. There have merely been in use blank cards without any writing on it. A so called „master card“ with a code plan was only needed for the indi-vidual coding by hand – that of course took some time. When once the information was coded round the edge of the cards, the „master card“ only served as a code-reminder.



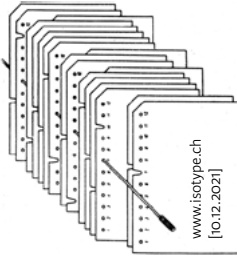
„The fundamental idea of edge punched cards is extremely simple: Certain of the holes round the edge of a card are punched with a V-shaped nick so that the hole is open to the neck. When a needle is inserted through corresponding holes in a pack of cards, then all those cards which have that hole punched will fall out of the rest of the pack.“
Journal of the Royal Statistical Society. Vol. 8, No. 2 (1959), pp. 104-113.

Different types of punch(ed) cards can be found in history. E.g. „Hollerith’s punch cards“ from around 1890. In 2012 some voting machines (in the US) still used punched cards to record votes!

The punch card searching is an example of parallel algorithm: Rather than doing things step by step one thing at a time, we do lots of things at once. Parallel algorithms are the future of programming and will become faster and faster with each new generation of technology. Is hollerith still hidden in „BLACK BOXES“?

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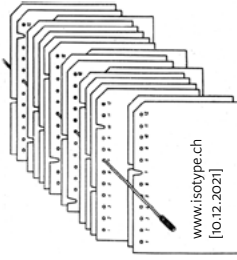
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