HARVEST REPORT #4

Subject: Simultaneous Clearing of Memory

By: J. W. Smith

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As mentioned in Machine Specification Report #3, it will be necessary to simultaneously clear any block of memory locations which are used for the counting operation.

Preferably, the size of the block should be variable in powers of two up to 64 words. Larger blocks would be cleared by repeating the operation. If variable size does not look feasible, fixed block sizes of 16 and 256 words should be provided.

The memory locations used for counting can be distributed among several memory units. This would increase the speed of counting, and would ease the technical problems of the clearing operation.

It is important that the clearing must be accomplished rapidly, but not necessarily within a single memory cycle. Clearing within two memory cycles would be satisfactory; that is, within one microsecond for the fast memory and four microseconds for the large memory.

The sizes of blocks discussed are not the ultimate desired, but seem feasible at this time. If the technical problems are less difficult than anticipated, the block sizes should be increased to 512 or 1024 words.

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