

Programming Research
November 5, 1957

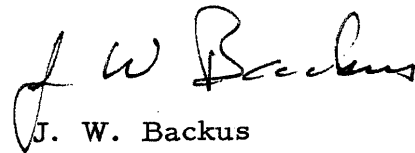
MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. J. C. McPherson

SUBJECT: FORTRAN II

REFERENCE: Your memo of 9/23/57

The added flexibility of FORTRAN II stems from the ability to add virtually any procedure as a new statement in the language. It is therefore difficult to summarize the features which will be added. Some examples undoubtedly are: matrix, complex and double precision arithmetic; monitor routines for manipulating the arrangement of subroutines in the store; routines for handling BCD information; special input-output operations.

With the exception of some format and spelling changes proposed for FORTRAN for the 709, FORTRAN II specs go considerably beyond any previous specs for the 709 system, in ways which we have discussed (independent subroutines; substitution of argument variables in calling statement for dummy variables in subroutine).


J. W. Backus

JWB:rw