



Dictionary of Computing

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IBM DICTIONARY OF COMPUTING

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programming, and other applications. PL/I is capable of handling a large variety of data structures and easily allows variation of precision in numeric computation. (T) (2) A programming language that is designed for use in a wide range of commercial and scientific computer applications. (A)

PLM Program logic manual.

plot (1) To represent graphically on a medium. (2) To draw or diagram. (3) To connect point-by-point coordinate values.

plotter (1) An output unit that directly produces a hardcopy record of data on a removable medium, in the form of a two-dimensional graphic representation. (T) (2) See drum plotter, flatbed plotter. See Figure 113.

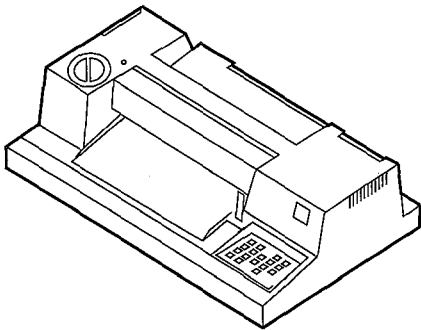


Figure 113. Plotter

plotter step size The increment size on a plotter. (I) (A)

plotting head The part of a plotter used to create marks on a display surface. (I) (A)

PLR Program library release.

PLU Primary logical unit.

plugboard A perforated board into which plugs or pins can be placed to control the operation of equipment. (I) (A) Synonymous with control panel, pinboard.

plugboard chart A chart that shows, for a given job, where plugs must be inserted into a plugboard. (I) (A) Synonymous with plugging chart.

plug-compatible Pertaining to devices provided by different manufacturers that can operate together.

plugging chart Synonym for plugboard chart.

plug-in tabulator On a typewriter, a tabulator stop that is set or changed directly by hand. (T)

PLV Production Level Video.

PM OS/2 Presentation Manager.

PMOS Positive-channel metal oxide semiconductor. A technology used in field effect transistors that utilizes the properties of a p-type semiconductor material, usually doped silicon, and that when energized produces a flow of positive charge carriers (holes).

PMS (1) Public Message Service. (2) Pantone Matching System.

PMX Programmable operator message exchange.

pocket A card stacker in a card sorter. (I) (A)

pocket calculator Synonym for hand-held calculator. (T) (A)

POF Point-of-failure restart.

POI Program operator interface.

point (1) In printing, a unit of about 1/72 of an inch used in measuring typographical material. There are twelve points to the pica. (2) In printing, in the Didot point system, a unit of 0.0147 inch. There are twelve Didot points to the cicero. (3) The second byte of a double-byte character set (DBCS) code, which uniquely identifies double-byte characters in the same word. See also word. (4) See addressable point, available point, branchpoint, breakpoint, checkpoint, decimal point, entry point, radix point, reentry point, rerun point, rescue point, restart point, view point.

pointer (1) A data element that indicates the location of another data element. (T) (2) In computer graphics, a manually operated functional unit used to specify an addressable point. A pointer may be used to conduct interactive graphic operations, such as selection of one member of a predetermined set of display elements, or indication of a position on a display space while generating coordinate data. (T) (3) An identifier that indicates the location of an item of data. (A) (4) In SAA Advanced Common User Access architecture, the symbol displayed on the screen that a user moves with a pointing device, such as a mouse. (5) A physical or symbolic identifier of a unique target. (6) In Pascal, a value used to define variables that contain the address of dynamic variables. (7) In the C language, a variable that holds the address of a data object or a function. (8) See current volume pointer, file pointer, horizontal pointer, instruction pointer, space pointer, space pointer machine object, system pointer, vertical pointer.