



**Sort-7 Timing
Specifications and Operating Procedures
IBM 1401 and 1460 Data Processing Systems**

Program Number 1401-LM-060

This reference publication contains the specifications and operating procedures for the Sort-7 Timing Program, Version 1. The first section discusses the machine requirements, program deck, control cards, and timing charts. The second section describes system preparation, messages, and halts.

Also included are 144 sort-timing comparison tables of the Sort-7 program run on IBM 1401 and 1460 Data Processing Systems. The parameters involved are explained.

The user should be familiar with Sort 7 Specifications and Operating Procedures for IBM 1401 and 1460, Form C24-3317-0. For a list of associated publications and their abstracts see the IBM 1401 and 1460 Bibliography, Form A24-1495.

Major Revision (February 1964)

This publication, C24-1456-1 is a major revision of and obsoletes
Comparison of Sort 7 Timing for IBM 1401 and 1460 Data Processing
Systems, Form C24-1456-0. In addition to the comparison timing
tables contained in C24-1456-0, this publication contains the speci-
fications and operating procedures for the Sort-7 Timing program.

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SPECIFICATIONS

The Sort-7 Timing program can be used to calculate timing estimates for:

- A 4-tape, 2-way balanced merge.
- A 6-tape, 3-way balanced merge.
- A 4-tape, multiphase merge.

The information punched in the control cards describes the object machine, the particular file to be sorted, and the type of merge to be performed. Timings can only be calculated for high-density tape files containing fixed-length records with one control data field per record. If timings are not required for specific file sizes (record volumes), the estimates calculated will be for a predetermined set of record volumes. The predetermined values are 1,000; 2,000; 5,000; 10,000; 25,000; 50,000; 75,000; and 100,000.

The Sort-7 Timing program prints out diagnostic messages and table(s) containing the estimate in minutes of the time required to sort the file. The estimates given do not include card-read time. These timings are for Sort 7 object decks only and do not represent timings utilizing the tape-loadable option.

The user should be familiar with Sort 7 Specifications and Operating Procedures for IBM 1401 and 1460, Form C24-3317-0.

MACHINE REQUIREMENTS

The IBM 1401 system that is to be used must have at least:

- 16,000 positions of core storage.
- An IBM 1402 Card Read-Punch, Model 1
- An IBM 1403 Printer, Model 2, or an IBM 1404 Printer
- High-Low-Equal Compare feature
- Advanced-Programming feature
- Multiply-Divide feature.

The IBM 1460 system that is to be used must have at least:

- 16,000 positions of core storage.
- An IBM 1402 Card Read Punch, Model 3
- An IBM 1403 Printer, Model 2
- Indexing-and-Store--Address-Register feature
- Multiply-Divide feature.

An IBM 1401 or 1460 system with the required machine configuration can be used to produce Sort-7 Timing estimates for files to be sorted on any IBM 1401 or 1460.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM DECK

The Sort-7 Timing program deck consists of 474 cards punched in the following format:

<u>Column(s)</u>	<u>Contain</u>
1-71	Sort-7 Timing program instructions and the necessary loading instructions.
72-75	Sequential number of the card within the program deck. The cards are numbered from 0001 to 0474.
76-77	60. This is the Sort-7 program number.
78-79	ST. This identifies the program as the Sort-7 Timing program.
80	The version number of the Sort-7 Timing program.

TAPE DENSITY

The Sort-7 Timing program calculates sort times for tape files written at a high-density rate. High density is 556 characters per inch on the 7330, 729-II, and 729-IV magnetic tape units, and 800 characters per inch on the 729-V and 729-VI magnetic tape units.

To perform a particular sort application in the time calculated by the Sort-7 Timing program, the user must be sure that his records are written at a high-density rate and that column 20 of control card 1 contains a 1 (7330, 729-II, 729-IV) or a 2 (729-V, 729-VI) to specify high density for the tapes to be used during phase 2.

CONTROL CARDS

Control cards supply the Sort-7 Timing program with a description of the Sort-7 program, the object machine, and the file(s) to be sorted. Two control cards are required for each sort application that is to be timed. More than one set of control cards can be placed in the program deck if additional estimates are desired.

Certain control card errors cause a halt or message during the running of the Sort-7 Timing program. Some errors are not detected. Because the program accepts these errors, the user should be certain that all control-card information is properly specified, and that all cards are correctly punched.

Control Card 1

This card is identical to control card 1 used with the Sort-7 program. Refer to Sort 7 Specifications and Operating Procedures for IBM 1401 and 1460, Form C24-3817-0, when preparing this card.

In the following description an asterisk indicates the columns that are considered by the Sort-7 Timing program.

<u>Column(s)</u>	<u>Indicate</u>	
1	<u>First sort-input tape-unit number.</u>	
2	<u>Second sort-input tape-unit number.</u>	
3	<u>Third sort-input tape-unit number.</u>	
4	<u>First sort work tape-unit number.</u>	
5	<u>Second sort work tape-unit number.</u>	
6	<u>Third sort work tape-unit number.</u>	
7-8	<u>Total number of input reels (01-99) in the input file.</u>	
9-12*	<u>Input record length.</u> Punch the number of characters in the fixed-length input record. (Must always be punched.)	
13-15*	<u>Input blocking factor.</u> a. Leave blank for input blocking factor equal to sort blocking factor. b. Punch 001 for fixed-length unblocked input records. c. Punch the number of input records per block. <u>Output blocking factor.</u> a. Leave blank for output blocking factor equal to sort blocking factor.	
16-18*		
19	<u>Unreadable block option.</u>	
20	<u>The density of the tapes used during phase 2.</u> High density is assumed in all cases.	
21	<u>Input-tape header label indicator.</u>	
22*	<u>Output-tape header-label indicator.</u> a. Leave blank if the output tapes are not to have header labels. b. Punch a 1 if the control portion of the input header label (positions 1-40) is to be used as the control portion of the 80-character output header label. c. Punch a 2 if a new 80-character header label is to be generated by the program. d. Punch a 3 if the control portion of the input header label (positions 1-40) is to be used as the control portion of the 120-character output header label. e. Punch a 4 if a new 120-character label is to be generated by the program. <u>Output tape-mark option.</u> <u>Input-tape trailer-label indicator.</u> <u>Output-tape trailer-label indicator.</u> a. Leave blank if the output tapes are not to have trailer labels. b. Punch a 1 or 2 if the standard output trailer label is to be generated by the program.	
23		
24		
25*		
26	<u>Padding indicator for fixed-length records.</u>	
27*	<u>System core-storage capacity of the Sort-7 object machine.</u> (Must always be punched.) a. Punch a 4 for 8,000 positions of core storage. b. Punch a 5 for 12,000 positions of core storage. c. Punch a 6 for 16,000 positions of core storage.	
28-29		<u>Total number of control-data fields.</u> (The Sort-7 timing program assumes that there is one control-data field.)
30-32*		<u>Total number of characters of control data.</u> Punch the number of characters in the control-data field (001-999). (Must always be punched.)
33-36		<u>Control-data field-1 location.</u>
37-39		<u>Control-data field-1 length.</u>
40-46		<u>Expected file size.</u>
47-51*		<u>Starting address of the phase-1 user area.</u> User-written routines that are to be executed during phase 1 must be loaded into upper core storage. The address specified in these columns is the lowest core-storage address of the user programming area. Core-storage positions below this address are utilized by the Sort-7 program. The last two positions of core storage, for example, positions 7998 and 7999 in an 8,000-position 1401, are also used by the Sort-7 program and are not available for user-written routines.
52-56*		<u>Starting address of the phase-2 user area.</u> User-written routines that are to be executed during phase 2 must be loaded into upper core storage. The address specified in these columns is the lowest core-storage address of the user programming area. Core-storage positions below this address are utilized by the Sort-7 program. For a balanced merge, the last 25 positions of core storage, for example, positions 7975-7999 in an 8,000-position 1401, are also used by the Sort-7 program and are not available for the user-written routines. For a multiphase merge, the last 16 positions of core storage are not available for user-written routines.
57		<u>Record-format indicator.</u>
58-61		<u>Low-order position of the record character count field.</u>
62-65		<u>The length in characters of the smallest variable-length record.</u>
66-69		<u>The length in characters of the largest input block of variable-length records.</u>
70-73		<u>The length in characters of the largest output block of variable-length records.</u> NOTE: Leave columns 57-73 blank. The Sort-7 Timing program can only calculate timings for files of fixed-length records.
74		<u>Record-mark padding indicator for fixed-length records only.</u>
75		<u>File order, either ascending or descending.</u>
76-80		These columns are not used by Sort 7 or the Sort-7 Timing program.

Control Card 2

This card is used to specify the type of merge and the record volumes (file sizes) for which timings are to be calculated. The user can indicate that he wants timing estimates for a predetermined set of record volumes and/or specific record volumes.

The parameters of the file to be sorted are the same for all volumes of records described in this card.

The format of control card 2 is:

<u>Column(s)</u>	<u>Indicate</u>
1	<u>Type of Merge.</u> (Must always be punched.) a. Punch a 2 for a 2-way balanced merge. b. Punch a 3 for a 3-way balanced merge. c. Punch a 4 for a multiphase merge.
2-8	<u>First volume of records for which a timing estimate is desired, or leave blank if timing estimates for the predetermined set of record volumes are desired.</u> The predetermined values are 1,000; 2,000; 5,000; 10,000; 25,000; 50,000; 75,000; and 100,000.
9-15	<u>Second volume of records for which a timing estimate is desired.</u>
16-22	<u>Third volume of records for which a timing estimate is desired.</u>
23-29	<u>Fourth volume of records for which a timing estimate is desired.</u>
30-36	<u>Fifth volume of records for which a timing estimate is desired.</u>
37-43	<u>Sixth volume of records for which a timing estimate is desired.</u>
44-50	<u>Seventh volume of records for which a timing estimate is desired.</u>
51-57	<u>Eighth volume of records for which a timing estimate is desired.</u>
58-80	<u>Blank.</u>

SORT-7 TIMING PROGRAM OUTPUT

The program prints one line of timing information for each of the record volumes specified in control card 2. Times are given for 1401 and 1460 systems with 7330, 729-II, 729-IV, 729-V, and 729-VI (729-VI used with 1460 only) magnetic tape units.

The factors included in the tables are:

- G—the number of records sorted internally at one time during phase 1.
B—the sort blocking factor.
P—the number of phase 2 merge passes.

The times that are printed have been rounded to the nearest minute. A 1 indicates that the time required to sort the file is one minute or less. An asterisk in the input-file column indicates that a file size greater than the maximum allowable file size was specified in control card 2.

The times calculated by the Sort-7 Timing program do not include the time required to load the Sort-7 program. For card-read time add 2 minutes.

OPERATING PROCEDURES

This section describes the procedure to be followed when running the Sort-7 Timing program.

PLACEMENT OF CONTROL CARDS

The Sort-7 Timing program can be loaded only from cards. Place the control cards in the program deck after the last card (number 474). More than one set of control cards can be inserted in the Sort-7 Timing program deck.

SYSTEM PREPARATION

Prepare the printer:

1. Insert forms.
2. Install an appropriately punched carriage tape.

Load the program:

1. Place the program deck including control cards in the card reader.
2. Press the check-reset, start-reset, and card-load keys.

The program will run to the end of the job without interruption unless an error occurs.

MESSAGES AND HALTS

Header and Parameter Messages

A header message and nine parameter messages precede the timing charts that are printed for each set of control cards. No halt occurs.

Header message: SORT-7 TIMING

Parameter messages:

- (1) INPUT RECORD LENGTH XXXX
- (2) INPUT BLOCKING FACTOR XXX
- (3) OUTPUT BLOCKING FACTOR XXX
- (4) WITH TAPE LABEL PROCESSING, or
WITHOUT TAPE LABEL PROCESSING
 - (5) CORE STORAGE { 8000
 12000
 16000
 - (6) CHARACTERS OF CONTROL DATA XXX
 - (7) USER STARTING ADDRESS — PHASE 1 XXXXXX
 - (8) USER STARTING ADDRESS — PHASE 2 XXXXXX
 - (9) 2-WAY BALANCED MERGE, or
3-WAY BALANCED MERGE, or
MULTIPHASE MERGE

Diagnostic Messages

Diagnostic messages are printed if the input parameters are incorrectly specified. No halt occurs. The program reads in the next set of control cards and continues processing.

A summary of the diagnostic messages and reasons is given in Figure 1.

Halts

If a halt occurs check the input data and return the program.

Diagnostic Message	Reason
ERROR 1	The machine size specified in column 27 of control card 1 has been incorrectly specified. It must contain a 4 for 8,000 positions of core storage, a 5 for 12,000 positions of core storage, or a 6 for 16,000 positions of core storage.
ERROR 2	The order of merge, column 1 of control card 2, must be specified as a 2 for a 2-way balanced merge, a 3 for a 3-way balanced merge, or a 4 for a multiphase merge.
ERROR 3	The input record length, columns 9-12 of control card 1, has been specified above the maximum record length, 3999.
ERROR 4	The specified input record length, columns 9-12 of control card 1, is either less than 10 for blocked input or less than 13 for unblocked input.
ERROR 5	The specified control field length, columns 30-32 of control card 1 is incorrect. This message prints out when the length of the control field is greater than the input record length, greater than 999, or when the field contains invalid characters.
ERROR 6	The specified indicators, columns 22 and 25 of control card 1, contain characters other than b, 1, or 2.
ERROR 7	The starting address of the user area for phase 1, columns 47-51 of control card 1 was specified incorrectly. The address must be less than machine core size — 2 positions of core storage, or The starting address of the user area for phase 2, columns 52-56 of control card 1 was specified incorrectly. The address must be less than machine core size — 25 positions of core storage for a 2- or 3-way balanced merge, and it must be less than machine core size — 16 positions of core storage for a multiphase merge.
ERROR 8	The input blocking factor specified in columns 13-15 of control card 1 is greater than the maximum possible sort blocking factor. (BI must be less than 399.)
ERROR 9	The output blocking factor specified in columns 16-18 of control card 1 is greater than the maximum possible sort blocking factor. (BO must be less than 399.)
ERROR 10 B = XXX	The output blocking factor specified in columns 16-18 of control card 1 is not equal to or a submultiple of the sort blocking factor (B).

Figure 1. Diagnostic Messages and Reasons

COMPARISON TIMING TABLES

This section contains 96 comparison tables for 2-way and 3-way balanced merges, and 48 tables for multi-phase merging. The times have been rounded to the nearest full minute. The times do not include the time required to load the program. Card-read time is approximately 2 minutes.

In each case, estimates are given for sorts when label processing is specified and for sorts when label processing is not specified. The estimates given in all tables with tape label processing do not include the time required to process the labels.

The parameters involved are:

- Core-storage capacity — 8,000; 12,000; and 16,000 positions
- Input format — fixed-length records with one 10-character control data field
- Record size — 10, 20, 40, 80, 100, 200, 500, and 1,000 characters
- Input file size — 1,000; 2,000; 5,000; 10,000; 25,000; 50,000; 75,000; and 100,000 records
- The input and output blocking factors equal the sort blocking factor
- Magnetic tape units — 7330, 729-II, 729-IV, 729-V and 729-VI (729-VI used with 1460 only)
- Tape density — 556 characters per inch on 7330, 729-II and 729-IV tape units; 800 characters per inch on 729-V and 729-VI tape units.

The factors included in the tables are:

G—the number of records sorted internally at one time during phase 1.

B—the sort blocking factor.

P—the number of phase 2 merge passes.



Technical Newsletter

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Re: Form No. C24-1456-1

This Newsletter No. N21-5002-0

Date: December 10, 1965

Previous Newsletter Nos. N24-0281

Replacement pages for Sort 7 Timing Specifications and Operating Procedures for IBM 1401 and 1460, Form C24-1456-1.

To bring your publication up to date, please replace page 5 with the corresponding page of this Newsletter. Changes are indicated by a vertical line at the left of the affected text.

Please insert this page to indicate that your publication now includes the modified page issued with this Technical Newsletter.

<u>Form</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Date</u>
N21-5002	5	December 10, 1965

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SPECIFICATIONS

The Sort-7 Timing program can be used to calculate timing estimates for:

- A 4-tape, 2-way balanced merge.
- A 6-tape, 3-way balanced merge.
- A 4-tape, multiphase merge.

The information punched in the control cards describes the object machine, the particular file to be sorted, and the type of merge to be performed. Timings can only be calculated for high-density tape files containing fixed-length records with one control data field per record. No timing estimates can be obtained for sorts of two or more control fields because the time added by such a condition is essentially based on the randomness of each control field. One control field is compared at a time, proceeding from the high-order control field through the low-order control field. However, the program goes to the next control field only if the preceding field was equal. Whether or not this is the case depends solely upon the data.

If timings are not required for specific file sizes (record volumes), the estimates calculated will be for a predetermined set of record volumes. The predetermined values are 1,000; 2,000; 5,000; 10,000; 25,000; 50,000; 75,000; and 100,000.

The Sort-7 Timing program prints out diagnostic messages and table(s) containing the estimate in minutes of the time required to sort the file. The estimates given do not include card-read time. These timings are for Sort 7 object decks only and do not represent timings utilizing the tape-loadable option.

The user should be familiar with Sort 7 Specifications and Operating Procedures for IBM 1401 and 1460, Form C24-3317-0.

MACHINE REQUIREMENTS

The IBM 1401 system that is to be used must have at least:

- 16,000 positions of core storage.
- An IBM 1402 Card Read-Punch, Model 1
- An IBM 1403 Printer, Model 2, or an IBM 1404 Printer
- High-Low-Equal Compare feature
- Advanced-Programming feature
- Multiply-Divide feature.

The IBM 1460 system that is to be used must have at least:

- 16,000 positions of core storage.
- An IBM 1402 Card Read Punch, Model 3
- An IBM 1403 Printer, Model 2

- Indexing-and-Store-Address-Register feature
- Multiply-Divide feature.

An IBM 1401 or 1460 system with the required machine configuration can be used to produce Sort-7 Timing estimates for files to be sorted on any IBM 1401 or 1460.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM DECK

The Sort-7 Timing program deck consists of 474 cards punched in the following format:

<u>Column(s)</u>	<u>Contain</u>
1-71	Sort-7 Timing program instructions and the necessary loading instructions.
72-75	Sequential number of the card within the program deck. The cards are numbered from 0001 to 0474.
76-77	60. This is the Sort-7 program number.
78-79	ST. This identifies the program as the Sort-7 Timing program.
80	The version number of the Sort-7 Timing program.

TAPE DENSITY

The Sort-7 Timing program calculates sort times for tape files written at a high-density rate. High density is 556 characters per inch on the 7330, 729-II, and 729-IV magnetic tape units, and 800 characters per inch on the 729-V and 729-VI magnetic tape units.

To perform a particular sort application in the time calculated by the Sort-7 Timing program, the user must be sure that his records are written at a high-density rate and that column 20 of control card 1 contains a 1 (7330, 729-II, 729-IV) or a 2 (729-V, 729-VI) to specify high density for the tapes to be used during phase 2.

CONTROL CARDS

Control cards supply the Sort-7 Timing program with a description of the Sort-7 program, the object machine, and the file(s) to be sorted. Two control cards are required for each sort application that is to be timed. More than one set of control cards can be placed in the program deck if additional estimates are desired.

Certain control card errors cause a halt or message during the running of the Sort-7 Timing program. Some errors are not detected. Because the program accepts these errors, the user should be certain that all control-card information is properly specified and that all cards are correctly punched.

Control Card 1

This card is identical to control card 1 used with the Sort-7 program. Refer to Sort 7 Specifications and Operating Procedures for IBM 1401 and 1460, Form C24-3317-0, when preparing this card.

In the following description an asterisk indicates the columns that are considered by the Sort-7 Timing program.

<u>Column(s)</u>	<u>Indicate</u>	
1	<u>First sort-input tape-unit number.</u>	
2	<u>Second sort-input tape-unit number.</u>	
3	<u>Third sort-input tape-unit number.</u>	
4	<u>First sort work tape-unit number.</u>	
5	<u>Second sort work tape-unit number.</u>	
6	<u>Third sort work tape-unit number.</u>	
7-8	<u>Total number of input reels (01-99) in the input file.</u>	
9-12*	<u>Input record length.</u> Punch the number of characters in the fixed-length input record. (Must always be punched.)	
13-15*	<u>Input blocking factor.</u> a. Leave blank for input blocking factor equal to sort blocking factor. b. Punch 001 for fixed-length unblocked input records. c. Punch the number of input records per block.	
16-18*	<u>Output blocking factor.</u> a. Leave blank for output blocking factor equal to sort blocking factor.	
19	<u>Unreadable block option.</u>	
20	<u>The density of the tapes used during phase 2.</u> High density is assumed in all cases.	
21	<u>Input-tape header label indicator.</u>	
22*	<u>Output-tape header-label indicator.</u> a. Leave blank if the output tapes are not to have header labels. b. Punch a 1 if the control portion of the input header label (positions 1-40) is to be used as the control portion of the 80-character output header label. c. Punch a 2 if a new 80-character header label is to be generated by the program. d. Punch a 3 if the control portion of the input header label (positions 1-40) is to be used as the control portion of the 120-character output header label. e. Punch a 4 if a new 120-character label is to be generated by the program.	
23	<u>Output tape-mark option.</u>	
24	<u>Input-tape trailer-label indicator.</u>	
25*	<u>Output-tape trailer-label indicator.</u> a. Leave blank if the output tapes are not to have trailer labels. b. Punch a 1 or 2 if the standard output trailer label is to be generated by the program.	
26	<u>Padding indicator for fixed-length records.</u>	
27*	<u>System core-storage capacity of the Sort-7 object machine.</u> (Must always be punched.) a. Punch a 4 for 8,000 positions of core storage. b. Punch a 5 for 12,000 positions of core storage. c. Punch a 6 for 16,000 positions of core storage.	
28-29		<u>Total number of control-data fields.</u> (The Sort-7 timing program assumes that there is one control-data field.)
30-32*		<u>Total number of characters of control data.</u> Punch the number of characters in the control-data field (001-999). (Must always be punched.)
33-36		<u>Control-data field-1 location.</u>
37-39		<u>Control-data field-1 length.</u>
40-46		<u>Expected file size.</u>
47-51*		<u>Starting address of the phase-1 user area.</u> User-written routines that are to be executed during phase 1 must be loaded into upper core storage. The address specified in these columns is the lowest core-storage address of the user programming area. Core-storage positions below this address are utilized by the Sort-7 program. The last two positions of core storage, for example, positions 7998 and 7999 in an 8,000-position 1401, are also used by the Sort-7 program and are not available for user-written routines.
52-56*		<u>Starting address of the phase-2 user area.</u> User-written routines that are to be executed during phase 2 must be loaded into upper core storage. The address specified in these columns is the lowest core-storage address of the user programming area. Core-storage positions below this address are utilized by the Sort-7 program. For a balanced merge, the last 25 positions of core storage, for example, positions 7975-7999 in an 8,000-position 1401, are also used by the Sort-7 program and are not available for the user-written routines. For a multiphase merge, the last 16 positions of core storage are not available for user-written routines.
57		<u>Record-format indicator.</u>
58-61		<u>Low-order position of the record character count field.</u>
62-65		<u>The length in characters of the smallest variable-length record.</u>
66-69		<u>The length in characters of the largest input block of variable-length records.</u>
70-73		<u>The length in characters of the largest output block of variable-length records.</u>
74		NOTE: Leave columns 57-73 blank. The Sort-7 Timing program can only calculate timings for files of fixed-length records.
75		<u>Record-mark padding indicator for fixed-length records only.</u>
76-80		<u>File order, either ascending or descending.</u> These columns are not used by Sort 7 or the Sort-7 Timing program.

Control Card 2

This card is used to specify the type of merge and the record volumes (file sizes) for which timings are to be calculated. The user can indicate that he wants timing estimates for a predetermined set of record volumes and/or specific record volumes.

The parameters of the file to be sorted are the same for all volumes of records described in this card.