

COMPUTER GENERATION

FIRST GENERATION(1940-1956)

- First Generation Computers used a very large number of vacuum tubes.
- So they were big in size.
- They needed a lot of electricity.
- They generated enormous heat.
- They could be programmed using machine level language.
- UNIVAC (Universal Automatic Computer),
- ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator) are the prime example of 1st generation computer

SECONDDGENERATION(1956-1963)

- SecondGeneration Computes were manufactured using transistors were smaller, cheaper.
- Assembly languageswere used.
- High Level Programming languages such as COBOL, FORTRAN were also being developed.
- Magnetic core technology were developed.

THIRD GENERATION(1964-1971)

- Several Electronic components such as transistors, registers and capacitors were fabricated in a single silicon chip called IC.
- ICs were small, less expensive, more reliable faster in operation, consumed less power and generates less heat.
- These computers had few megabytes of memory.
- COBOL and FORTRAN were standardised.
- PASCAL and BASIC were introduced.
- Time Sharing Operating Systems were implemented.

FOURTH GENERATION COMPUTERS(1971-1989)

- Microprocessor launched with thousands of integrated circuits built into single chip.
- New operating systems MS-DOS, MS-WINDOWS, UNIX were developed.
- In 1981 IBM introduced first PC.
- In 1984 Apple introduced Macintosh.
- GUI were used in Fourth Generation Computers.
- Networks allowed sharing of resources, thereby enabling efficient utilization of computer hardware and software

FIFTH GENERATION COMPUTERS(1989-)

- Fifth Generation Computers are based on new concept Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- Voice Recognition Systems are widely used.
- Parallel processing increased speed of computers.
- Quantum Computation and nanotechnology will radically change the face of computers.
- Expert Systems are developed to work as specialist in a field.
- Computers are programmed to understand and respond to natural human language.
- Neural Networks are used to simulate intelligence.
- Robotics are used to look, listen and react to other sensory stimuli.