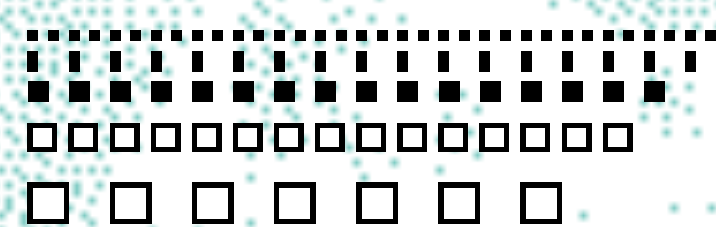




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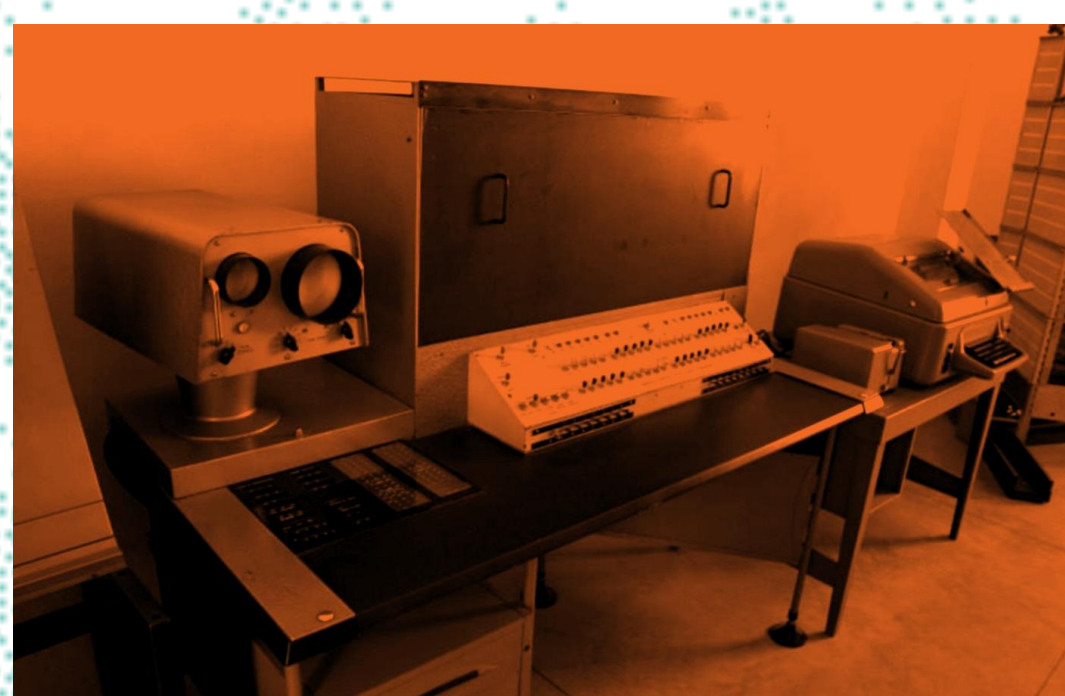
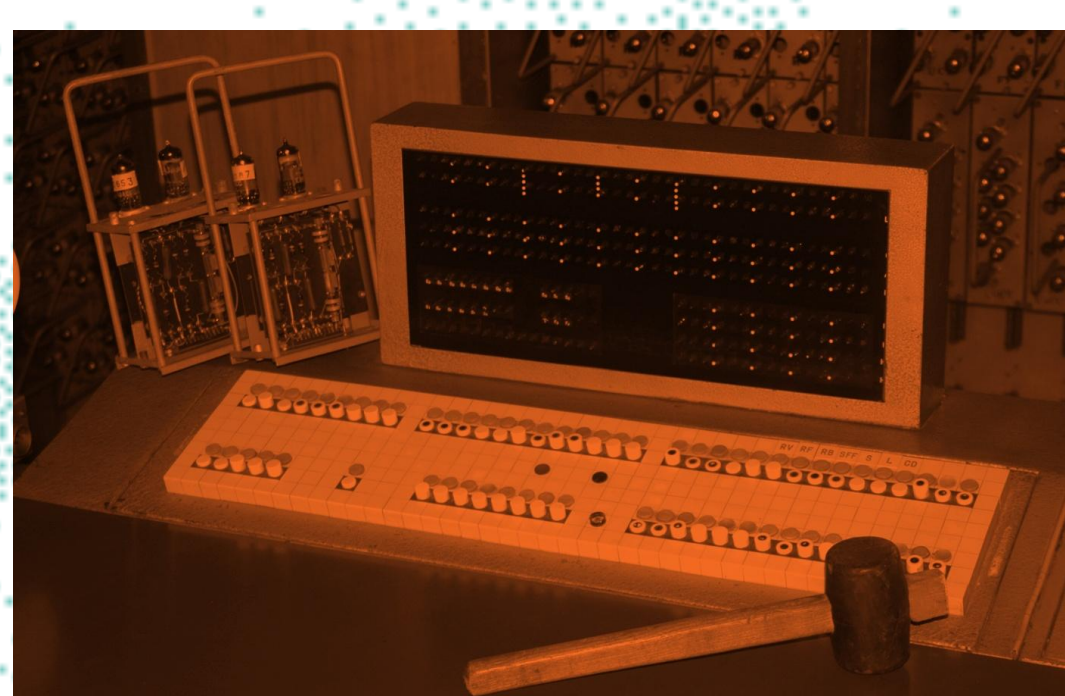
Hacking the Macchina Ridotta
Dept. of Computer Science



Museum of Computing Tools
Fondazione Galileo Galilei

Designing an exhibition about the history of personal computing

Giovanni A. Cignoni
Fabio Gadducci



the Museum of Computing Tools

- focus on digital computing
- unique in Italy, relevant in Europe
- mechanical calculators since XIX century
- early Italian computers from the Sixties
- iconic supercomputers of the Eighties
- milestones of commercial computing

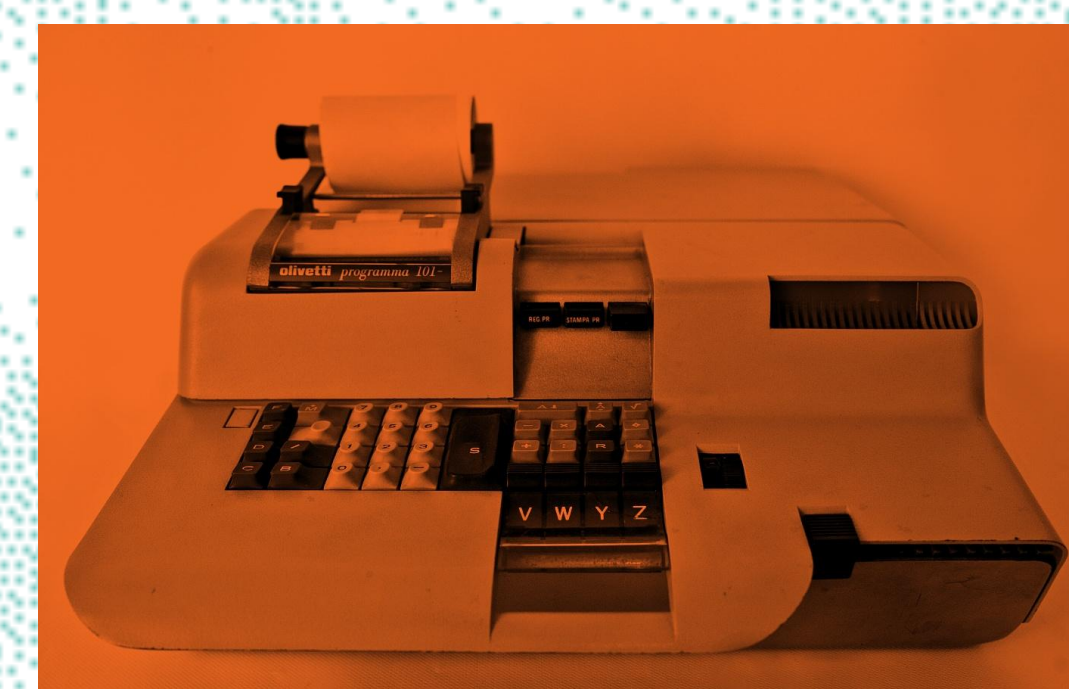
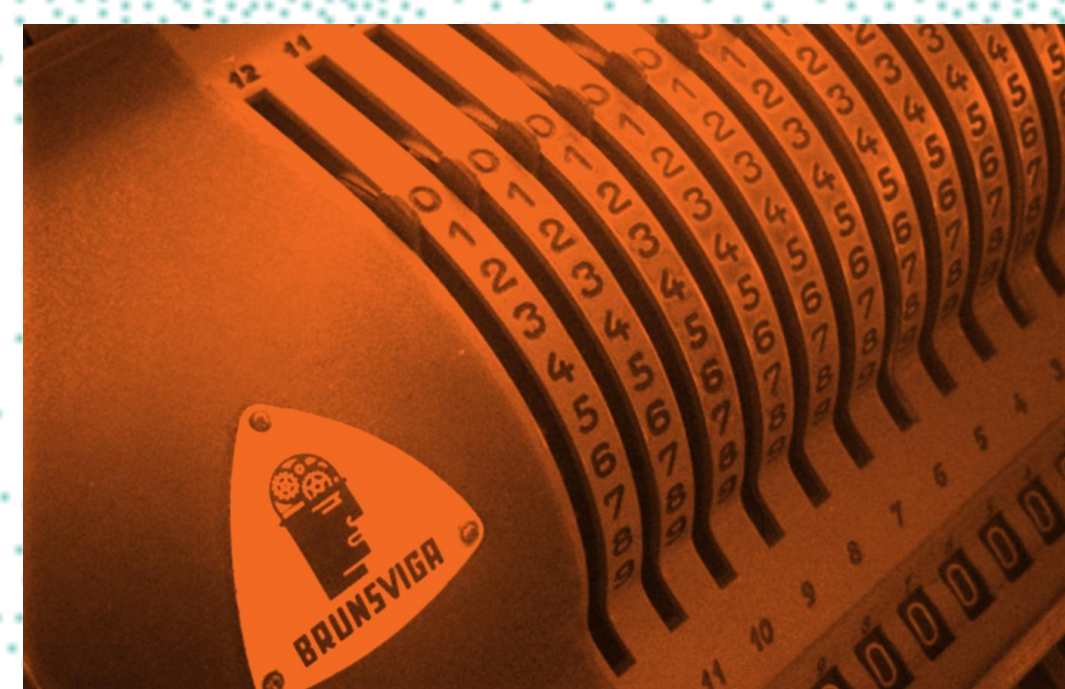
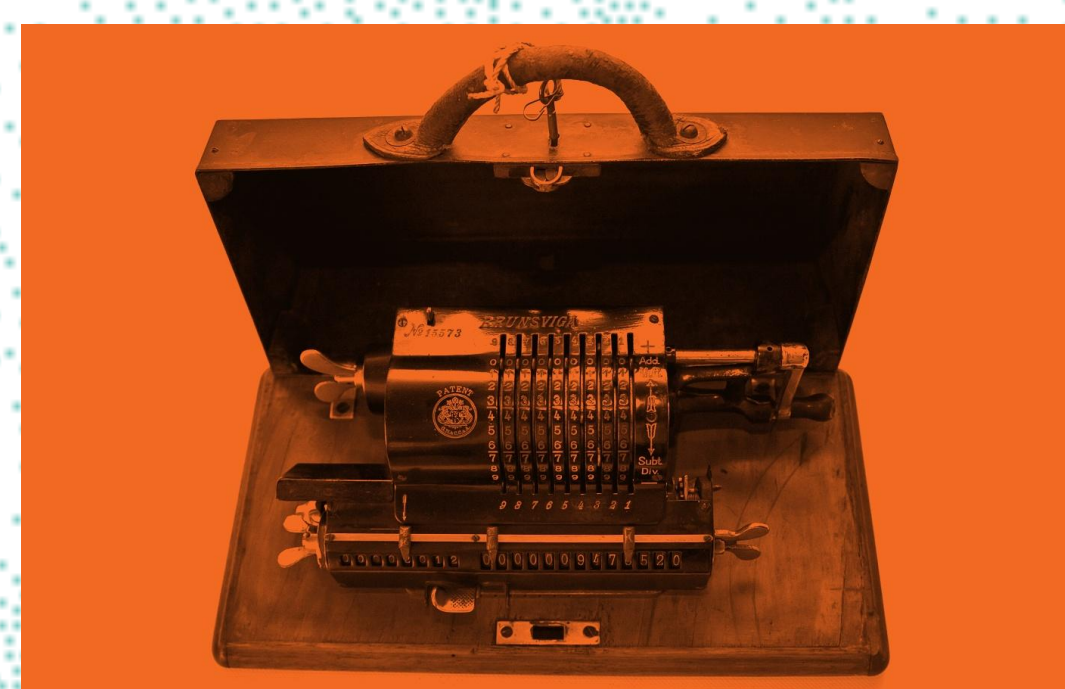
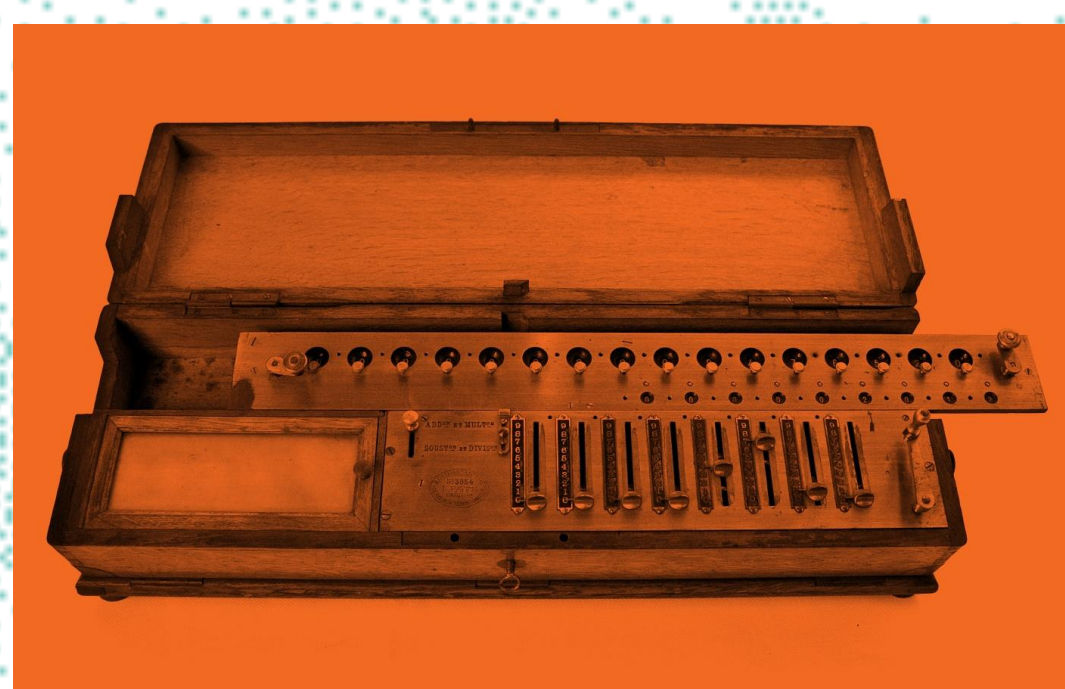
lack of display spaces

- in 2010 spaces were reduced to about one third
- many machines confined in the museum stores
- in 2011 started an ambitious project:
- a complete reorganization of the Museum spaces

current challenge: the exhibition about personal computing

goals & constraints (besides the space)

- cover the whole personal computing history
- tell it from an original perspective
- debunk prevalent equation PC = Jobs+Gates
- reveal centuries of advances in science & technology
- appraise the collection of mechanical calculators
- show renown masterpieces as well as less known ones
- give credit (when due) to Italian excellences



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opening on 20 12 2013