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Dr. Claude E. Shannon, one of the world's leading scientists, has been appointed to the faculty of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. James R. Killian, Jr., president, announced today. He will have the unique dual title of professor of communications sciences in the department of electrical engineering and professor of mathematics.

For the past year Dr. Shannon has been visiting professor of electrical communications, while remaining a research mathematician on the staff of Bell Telephone Laboratories. He will continue collaborative work with Bell.

The field in which Dr. Shannon has achieved special eminence is that of information theory, a new branch of science which combines the methods of mathematics and electrical communications in computing, automation and areas of the behavioral sciences that bear on the relation of man to his environment. It encompasses such practical applications as the nation-wide automatic telephone system and devices by which streams of electrons can be translated into television pictures. Last week Dr. Shannon was presented with the 1956 Research Corporation Award for his work on information theory.

In his autobiography, "I Am a Mathematician," Dr. Norbert Wiener, another distinguished M.I.T. professor wrote: "Shannon is one of the major spirits behind the present age of the electronic computer and the automatic factory. Moreover, it is through his work that a training in symbolic logic, that most formal of all disciplines, has come to be one recognized mode of introduction into the great complex of scientific work of the Bell Telephone Laboratories."

A native of Gaylord, Mich., Dr. Shannon received a B.S. in electrical engineering and mathematics at the University of Michigan and then came to M.I.T. for a master's degree in electrical engineering and a Ph.D. in mathematics. While a student here he wrote a thesis of such originality and significance that it had an immediate impact on the designing of telephone systems.

Dr. Shannon became a research assistant at M.I.T. in 1936 and an assistant in mathematics in 1938. He was in charge of the differential analyzer, a computer developed at M.I.T. In 1940 he went to the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton for a year and in 1941 joined the staff of Bell Telephone Laboratories.

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Dr. Shannon - M.I.T.

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Scientific papers by Dr. Shannon have ranged from those dealing with the theory and theorem of optimum transmission of information to theoretical studies of machines which would play chess and other games. He holds several patents.

Dr. Shannon's work has been recognized by the award of the Alfred Noble Prize of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the Morris Liebmann Award of the Institute of Radio Engineers and the Stuart Ballantine Medal of the Franklin Institute. In 1954 he was awarded the honorary degree of master of science at Yale University. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

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