

From the Office of Public Relations
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Arthur L. Samuel, a pioneer in computer research involving machine learning and artificial intelligence, has been appointed visiting professor of electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for the 1963-64 academic year, Dean Gordon S. Brown of the School of Engineering announced.

Dr. Samuel is on leave as consultant to the IBM director of research at the Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown, N. Y., to teach and do research at M. I. T. He will be closely associated with the Institute's new Project MAC, a major national program on advanced computer systems and their exploitation.

Dr. Samuel's pioneering work, while directed toward an apparently unrelated problem--that of "programming" a computer to play checkers--has become basic in the development of techniques for making computers learn from their experience. This capability is of great economic importance, Dean Brown said, and when fully developed it will permit the solution of many science and engineering problems. Without this learning ability, the full potential of the digital computer as a force for good in our society cannot be realized.

Dr. Samuel is a native of Emporia, Kan. He received the A. B. degree in mathematics from the College of Emporia in 1923 and was awarded simultaneously the S. B. and S. M. degrees in electrical engineering from M. I. T. in 1926. He did graduate work in physics at Columbia University and was awarded an honorary Sc. D. from the College of Emporia in 1946.

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Dr. Arthur
L.
Samuel

Dr. Samuel taught at M.I.T. from 1926 to 1928, when he joined the research staff of the Bell Telephone Laboratories. Engaged in research on ultra-high frequency electron tubes for Bell for 18 years, he was issued more than 50 U.S. patents and some 200 foreign patents.

From 1946 to 1949, Dr. Samuel was professor of electrical engineering at the University of Illinois where he helped establish the university's computer laboratory.

Dr. Samuel joined IBM in 1949 as assistant manager of the IBM Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Engineering Laboratory and has been with IBM since then. He is editor of the IBM Journal of Research and Development.

Dr. Samuel is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and the American Physical Society and a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Association of Computing Machinery and Sigma Xi.

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