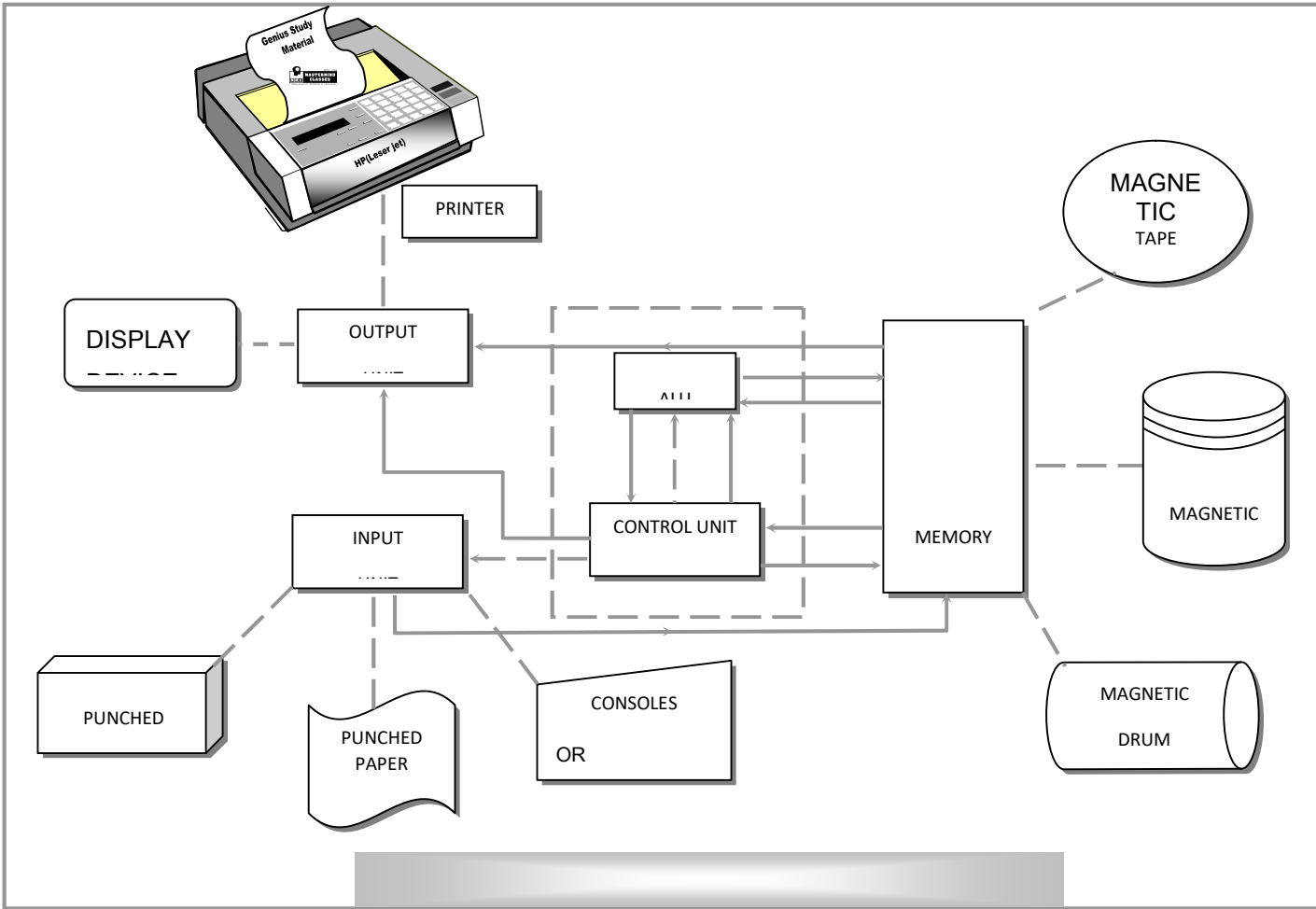


## Introduction.

The modern digital computer or simply a computer is a general purpose electronic machine which can process a large amount of information at a very high speed. A computer can perform millions of computations in a few minutes. It can also perform arithmetical and logical operations.



A computer has five major components:

- (1) Input unit
- (2) Memory unit
- (3) Control unit
- (4) Arithmetic logical unit
- (5) Output unit

(1) **Input unit:** The input unit is the means where the user communicates data or information to the computer.

(2) **Memory unit:** The memory unit stores instructions, data and intermediate results. It supplies, when required, the stored information to the other units of the computer.

(3) **Control unit:** The control unit controls all the activities in the computer by sending electronic command signals to other components of the computer.

(4) **Arithmetic Logical Units (ALU):** ALU is the unit where the arithmetic and logical (e.g., less than, greater than) computations are carried out. Control unit and ALU taken together is called Central Processing Unit (CPU).

(5) **Output unit:** The output unit receives the stored result from the memory unit converts it into a form. The user can understand and produces it in the desired format.

A computer may have more than one input and output units. For example, printer and display screen are two different output units attached to the same computer.