

# SCHEDETELEAKS

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Everything you ever wanted to know about calling cards

Tutto ciò che avreste voluto sapere sulle schede telefoniche

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ospitata da:

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## 5th - The world of Codes

7th - Logic of issue

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## The world of Codes

### 7-Logic of issue

The purpose of this chapter is to try to identify any sequential and / or temporal logics of the internal codes of the SIP-Telecom cards. In order to obtain a data archive as reliable as possible, over 15,000 telephone cards were analyzed, starting from the very first "Urmel white and red", up to the latest issued, still valid.

As described above, the codes of the telephone cards consist of the sequence of 4 numbers: Class, Issue, Identification and Progressive (eg 01/03/124/10345). To identify the correct issue sequence, it is sufficient to focus on the combination of Class and Issue.

We remind you that the Class code ("A" code) can assume values from 00 to 15, while the Issue code can vary from 01 to 16.

In order to clarify the discussion, the following is an extract of the cards with expiration 31/12/12.

Class	Issue	Identifier	Progressive
01	07	218	15092
01	07	171	65091
01	07	172	46031
01	07	218	15096
01	08	052	09138
01	08	023	65071
01	08	055	17234
01	08	055	34399

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01	09	150	00865
01	09	150	00399
01	09	112	65097
01	09	075	03501
01	10	074	17193
01	11	019	01775
01	10	216	53223
01	10	160	23133
01	10	160	34513
01	10	236	53107
01	11	146	43292
01	11	009	01325

For the purpose of analyzing the sequence of emissions, the data extracted from the table are the following Class + Emission pairs (first two columns of the adjacent table), i.e .:

01/07      01/08      01/09      01/10      01/11

The Identification and Progressive codes (third and fourth column) have therefore been omitted, as they are not useful for the purposes of this study.

The analysis was extended to all maturities up to the very last issues and the data were reported in a table showing the maturity date on the vertical axis and the combination of

Class / Issue.

The table relating to Class 01 is shown as an example.

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SCAD	CLASSE 01															
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
86	■															
87	■															
88	■	■														
12/89	■	■	■													
06/90	■	■	■	■												
12/90		■	■	■												
06/91				■	■	■										
12/91				■	■	■										
06/92					■	■	■	■								
12/92							■	■	■	■	■					

The CLASS 01 column is divided into a further 16 columns, numbered from 01 to 16: these represent the Emissions relating to Class 01.

The green square indicates the presence of cards having the Class + Issue combination falling in the specific column, as the expiry date changes.

Let's see some examples to better explain the concept.

- For cards with expiration 31/12/89 there are codes 01/01, 01/02 and 01/03.
- For cards with expiry 30/06/92 there are codes 01/05, 01/06, 01/07 and 01/08.
- 

And so on.

By analyzing the graph more carefully, it can be seen that the arrangement of the Class / Issue combinations is by no means random.

The green squares are arranged according to a diagonal that proceeds from left to right, the result of a very precise logic in preparing the emissions. Not wanting to dwell now on any hypotheses regarding this "logic", it is possible to continue with other considerations based on the simple observation of the graph.

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Leaving aside the year 1986, it is possible to see how each Class + Issue combination is used for a maximum of 3/4 maturities. For example, the combination 01/01 was found in the deadlines 87, 88, 12/89 and 06/90. The 01/02 combination comes into play on cards with a later deadline than 01/01 and we find it in the deadlines 88, 12/89, 06/90 and 12/90. The combination 01/03 appears on cards with a later deadline than 01/02 and we find it in the cards with maturity 12/89, 06/90, 12/90. And so on, it is possible to continue in a more or less predictable manner according to this reasoning for all other issues.

Extending this graph to all available emissions, here's what we get:

The graph, obtained from the analysis of over 15,000 telephone cards, shows an orderly arrangement of the internal codes, according to the expiration date. In fact, there is a regular diagonal arrangement. These considerations allow us to reach an important conclusion: it is possible to associate a specific internal code to an expiration period of the card.

The data shown in the graph are obtained on a sample (albeit abundant) of telephone cards. This means that there is the possibility of finding combinations not found in our tests so far. However, we believe that the possible codes not yet traced are placed in the immediate vicinity of the codes that we have already identified. For example, the cards with expiry 06/92, found so far with codes 01/05, 01/06, 01/07, 01/08, could have codes with 01/04 or 01/09 combination, or combinations close to those already found. It is possible to state with a good degree of certainty that cards with expiry 06/92 will never have combinations, for example, 03/12, 05/05, 03/14, and so on.

In addition to the 15,000 cards covered by the aforementioned study, a further sample of telephone card prototypes was analyzed.

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An important result emerged from the analysis of these cards: for tests and trials, Urmet used 5 families of codes, each specific to a cut.

Let's see them in detail:

- 01/01/024 / xxxxx ↔ 1,000 Lire cards
- 01/05/248 / xxxxx ↔ 2.000 Lire cards and Tribute cards
- 01/01/024 / xxxxx ↔ 5,000 Lire cards
- 01/01/061 / xxxxx ↔ 10,000 Lire cards
- 01/06/003 / xxxxx ↔ cards of 15,000 Lire

The combination of the code family and the face value of the card remains unchanged over the years. For example, prototypes of 5,000 Lire from 1989 and 1998 both show 01/01/024 / xxxxx.

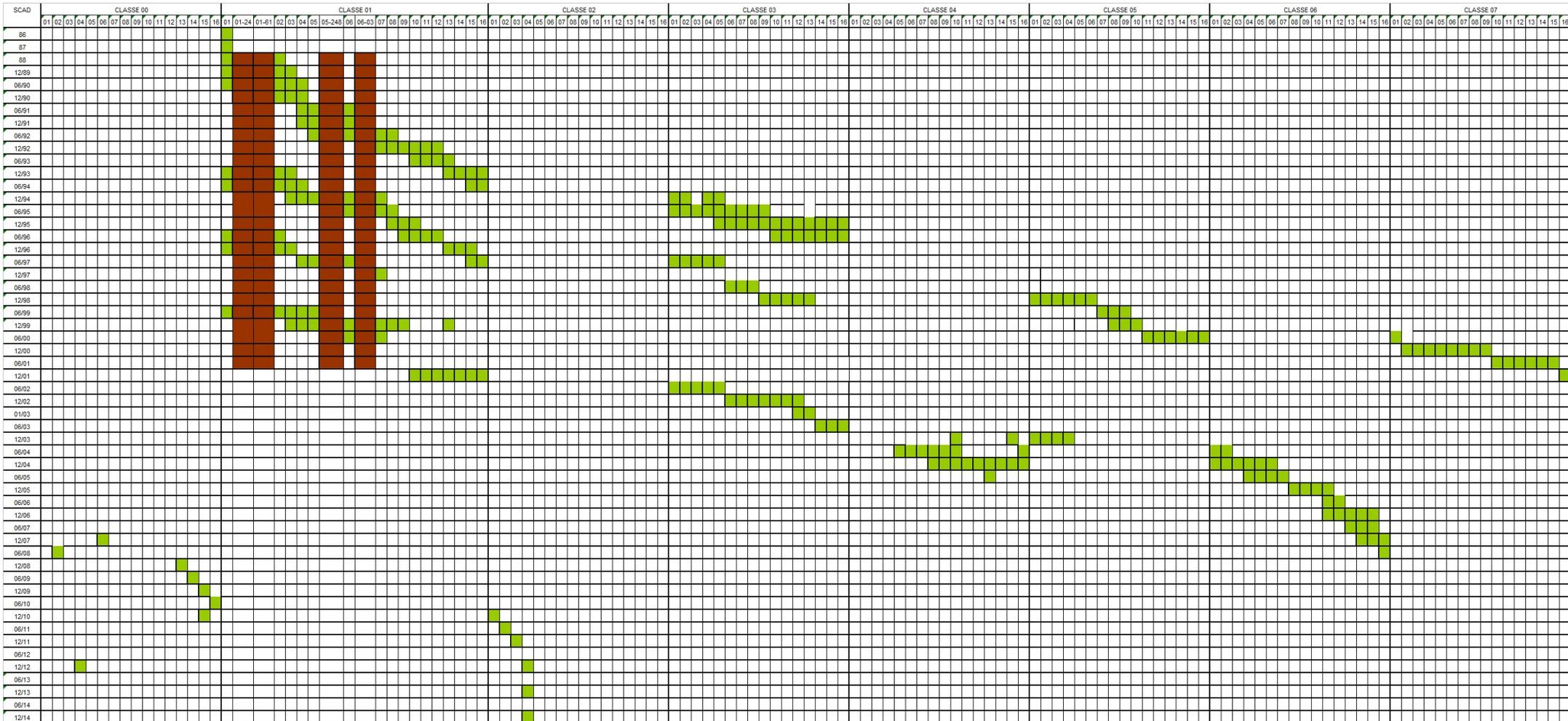
It is therefore reasonable to think that SIP, in collaboration with Urmet, had dedicated these 5 particular codes to internal tests and magnetization tests of the cards and not to telephone cards intended for the public.

These codes, however, are found on large quantities of cards that were to be intended for the public. In light of the previous analysis, in our opinion their presence on non-prototype boards is a symptom of not goodness of the board itself.

Let's go in order. Let's imagine that the prototype code boards were actually created and sold for normal use and put them in our chart.

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These codes (highlighted in red for convenience) do not follow the logic found for all the other boards!

The same Class / Issue combination is repeated for all maturities, contrary to the logic found in the sample of 15,000 cards used. Logically, the cards with prototype codes therefore appear different and not comparable to the cards of actual use. How to answer the question about the validity or otherwise of apparently normal boards but instead equipped with prototype codes?

We have reasonable elements to assume that these cards:

- 1) They were not made to be sold in normal sales channels. Therefore it would be a question of cards not born to telephone;
- 2) These are cards in excess of production, left demagnetized and unsold and therefore destined for pulping, but which somehow escaped from the warehouses and magnetized subsequently.

Clearly, this magnetization was not aimed at enabling the card to make phone calls, as the telephone booth would have recognized its irregular code, but to be passed off as a regular card in the field of collectors, whose value however is one tenth of the normal ones. This thesis is particularly widespread among various collectors and experts in the sector.

A further curiosity concerns the residual credit found on the cards we analyzed. The vast majority of cards with prototype codes have full residual credit. This means that these cards, most likely, could not be used in the cabin, since the same would not have allowed their use and would not have reduced the credit, as is the case with the normal use of a valid card. The presence of some (actually very few) cards with prototype codes with zero residual credit is still a mystery. It is possible that these cards were used in the Urmet laboratories for internal tests.

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