

# TERMINAL TALK

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- THE WOFFORD CONNECTION -

Wofford College Computer Center

Spartanburg, South Carolina

## First Administrative User

Mrs. Faith Hammett, secretary to Dean Lesesne, has begun to use the terminal to help tabulate the results of confidential faculty evaluation questionnaires. She is using a program which counts and lists, for each question, the number and percentage of student responses of each type. This was a test run, and faced the combined problems of program development and transmission errors. Such data handling jobs may not be faster than hand methods until further operations are required on the same data base. Mrs. Hammett recognizes these problems associated with initial efforts and looks forward to further use.

## Detergent Level Determination

Dr. Moore's Science 2 section has written a program to handle data from spectrophotometric Beer's Law measurements. The program takes a standard solution and suggests the best straight line to fit the data. This is graphed, absorbance compared to concentration. Another program takes absorbance levels from unknown samples and calculates concentration.

The class uses the programs to determine detergent levels in Spartanburg County streams. Dr. Moore happily reports that pollution levels are not severe in most cases, though he is keeping a close eye on a few locations.

## Psych Trio on Special Projects

Under the guidance of Dr. Scott, three psychology majors have been working busily this month to finish their independent research projects in which the computer terminal was used.

Mr. Henry T. Medlock (Jr., Clemson, S. C.) has written a program which compares personality variables with perception of visual figures. He tachistoscopically presents drawings to students and requires them to reproduce what they saw. Their performance is scored for completeness. The results are then correlated with the results of personality tests previously administered.

Mr. Tom DeCaro (Sr., Plantersville, S. C.), an employee of the Mental Health Center, has recorded 15 pieces of data on 99 patients at the facility. The profile of each patient is studied and the program searches for variables that might be used to predict diagnostic indications in the population.

Mr. Gerald Weese (Jr., Spartanburg, S. C.) has been studying verbal conditioning. He has been testing the effects of verbal and non-verbal reinforcement. The program that he uses combines response data and tabulates various size blocks of trials.

### Complex Problem Made Simple

Chemistry 62, taught by Dr. B. G. Stephens, has been using the computer terminal to solve a series of highly tedious equations, the simplest of which were of the third degree. The class is studying the equilibrium in aqueous solutions of acids and their salts and bases and their salts. The program was prepared by Mr. Mason Robertson (Fr., Columbia, S. C.) as an extension of his work during the Interim.

### Simulation of Science Experiments

The twelve students in Dr. Olds' Science 2 class are preparing computer simulations of their semester-long laboratory projects. These projects were selected and planned to obtain a quantitative answer to some question about nature. The purpose of the simulation is to create a computer model so the natural process may be studied by the other students without the equipment. The goal is to transfer as much of the learning experience as possible to the user of the simulation. He is given the responsibility for choosing values of independent variables and for analysis of the results. The computer program is to be a "black box" responding, as nearly as possible, like the natural system studied.

### Final Meeting

The SREB Computer Sciences Project met in Gatlinburg and Maryville, Tennessee on 23-25 April for the last meeting of Wofford's grant period. Much of this meeting was devoted to the problem of preparing final reports and reviewing the results of various studies made thus far. Some schools, whose grant began one year later than Wofford's, will continue meeting and Wofford is asked to continue contributing data to the experiment.