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AN EXPERIMENT COMPARING FORTRAN PROGRAMMING TIMES
WITH THE SOFTWARE PHYSICS HYPOTHESIS

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M. H. Halstead

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INTRODUCTION

Recent discoveries in the area of Algorithm Structure or Software Physics [1-25] have produced a number of hypotheses. One of these relates the number of elementary mental discriminations required to implement an algorithm to measurable properties of that algorithm, and the results of one set of experiments confirming this relationship have been published [16]. That publication, while significant, made no claim to finality, suggesting instead that further experiments were warranted. This paper will present the results of a second set of experiments, having the advantages of being conducted in a single implementation language, Fortran, from problem specifications readily available in computer textbooks.

Section I of this report presents the timing hypothesis, and the elementary equations upon which it rests. Section II presents the details of the experiment and the results which were obtained, and Section III contains an analysis of the data.

SECTION I - TIMING HYPOTHESIS

Measurable properties of any implementation of any algorithm include:

η_1 = The count of distinct operators

η_2 = The count of distinct operands
(variables or constants)

N_1 = Total uses of operators

N_2 = Total uses of operands

The vocabulary, η , is given by:

$$\eta = \eta_1 + \eta_2 \quad (1)$$

and the length, N , is:

$$N = N_1 + N_2 \quad (2)$$

From these properties, it is possible to obtain the volume, V , in bits, as:

$$V = N \log_2 \eta \quad (3)$$

and the implementation level, L , where $L \leq 1$, as:

$$L = \frac{\eta_1^*}{\eta_1} \frac{\eta_2}{N_2} \quad (4)$$

where η_1^* , the minimum possible number of operators, will equal 2 for most algorithms. (One for the name of a function, plus one for a grouping symbol operator). It has been shown [4] that the product $L \times V$ is invariant under translation from one language to another, and that for programs without impurities [3,6,8]:

$$N = \eta_1 \log_2 \eta_1 + \eta_2 \log_2 \eta_2 \quad (5)$$

From this point, the following nine steps yield the timing equation:

1. A program consists of N selections from η elements.

2. A binary search of n elements requires $\log_2 n$ comparisons.
3. A program is generated by making $N \log_2 n$ comparisons.
4. Therefore, the volume, V , is a count of the number of comparisons required.
5. The number of elementary mental discriminations required to complete one comparison measures the difficulty of the task.
6. The level, L , is the reciprocal of the difficulty.
7. Therefore, E , the count of elementary mental discriminations required to generate a program, is given by:

$$E = \frac{V}{L} \quad (6)$$

8. S , the speed with which the brain makes elementary mental discriminations can be obtained from psychology [26] as:

$$5 \leq S \leq 20 \text{ discriminations per second.}$$

9. Therefore, the time to generate a preconceived program, by a concentrating programmer, fluent in a language, is:

$$\hat{T} = \frac{V}{SL} \quad (7)$$

Equation 7 may be expressed in more basic terms by substituting for V from equation 3, and for L from equation 4, with $n_1^* = 2$, giving:

$$\hat{T} = \frac{n_1 N_2 N \log_2 n}{2 S n_2} \quad (8)$$

The effect of possible impurities [5] may be eliminated from equation 8 by substituting for N from equation 5. Letting $S = 60 \times 18 = 1080$ will then give, for time in minutes:

$$\hat{T} = \frac{n_1 N_2 (n_1 \log_2 n_1 + n_2 \log_2 n_2) \log_2 n}{2160 n_2} \quad (9)$$

Each of the variables on the right hand side of equation 9 can be readily measured (or counted) in any computer program, and the experiment described in the next section was designed to compare results from that equation with observed programming times.

SECTION II. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

Eleven problems were arbitrarily selected from two published sources. In selecting candidates for the experiment, problems were sought which were stated in a non-procedural form. Further, the problem statement had to be complete. That is, in the course of solving a particular problem, specific laws of physics, mathematics, etc. would not have to be derived. The problems finally selected were taken from Knuth [27], and from Maurer and Williams [28], and cover a wide range of topics including character manipulation, list processing, simulation experiments and mathematical analysis. The source of each problem statement is cited in Table 1.

On each of eleven days, one of these problems was implemented by the senior author. In order to maintain a consistent level of performance all work was conducted in a quiet room, free from distractions, during the same period of the day. The time required to fully implement the problem was obtained. This total time included the number of minutes spent reading the statement of the problem, preparing flowcharts and writing preliminary versions of the code, writing the final version of the code, desk checking, and the time spent working to correct errors in the program. Time to keypunch was not included.

For a number of reasons, including availability and fluency, all of the algorithms were implemented in Fortran. In the course of solving a problem the correctness of the implementation was checked by executing a sufficiently complex test case for which a correct answer was known. In some cases the solution to a problem was written as a subroutine and testing required that a main routine be written. In such a case only the preparation of the subroutine was considered for the experiment.

In addition, several implementations made use of subroutines previously written. Such routines were also not included. The complete text of each of the eleven programs is included in Appendix A.

After each program was completed, a careful count was made to determine values of n_1 , n_2 , N_1 and N_2 . In obtaining these values all read, write, declarative statements and comments were ignored. The results are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1. EXPERIMENTAL DATA

No.	Program Specifications			Software Parameters				Implementation
	Ref. [*]	Page	Problem	η_1	η_2	N_1	N_2	Time-Minutes
G1	K	158	21	15	11	59	51	19
G2	K	159	23	20	24	231	197	92
G3	K	196	7	16	12	64	49	16
G4	K	377	17	19	21	131	113	39
G5	K	158	22	7	10	38	35	21
G6	K	154	10	9	14	69	62	30
G7	M	32	3.2.21	12	8	30	23	5
G8	M	32	3.2.23	19	15	73	55	24
G9	M	88	8.3.2	22	32	124	104	43
G10	M	89	8.3.4	25	34	261	222	91
G11	M	27	3.2.4	14	10	29	21	5

^{*}K = Knuth [27], M = Maurer and Williams [28].

SECTION III - ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

The programming time predicted by theory was obtained for each program by applying equation 9 to the data in Table 1. This result, T_c , can be compared with the observed value, T_o , in Table 2. In addition, a count of the number of statements in each program was obtained, and the programs were ordered according to these values.

The average of the calculated values, 34 minutes, is fortuitously close to the observed value, 35 minutes. The coefficient of correlation is 0.934, only slightly smaller than the value of 0.952 reported in an earlier experiment [16]. In further agreement with that experiment, the correlation between length and observed times, 0.887, is lower than between observed and calculated times.

In conclusion, it may again be observed that one more set of experimental data do not contradict the simple hypothesis. As a result, further carefully controlled experiments by others would appear to be warranted.

TABLE 2. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Program Number	Statement Count	Programming Time-Minutes	
		T observed	T Equ. 9
G7	7	5	4.6
G11	8	5	5.4
G5	11	21	2.5
G6	15	30	6.8
G3	18	16	15.6
G1	18	19	14.6
G8	18	24	22.9
G4	32	39	43.6
G2	36	92	81.5
G9	38	43	49.2
G10	59	91	128.5
Means		35.0	34.1

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APPENDIX A

Final listings of the eleven experimental programs.

TEST PROGRAM 1

```

C
C
C
DIMENSION MAGIC(23,23)
DATA MAGIC /529*0/
C
N=1
IR=1
IC=23/2 + 1
BEGIN TOP ROW, CENTER
C
100 MAGIC(IR,IC)=N
MARK A SQUARE
C
IF (N.EQ.529) GO TO 900
N=N+1
DONE WHEN N=23**2
C
JR=IR-1
IF (JR.LT.1) JR=23
JC=IC-1
IF (JC.LT.1) JC=23
IF (MAGIC(JR,JC).EQ.0) GO TO 200
MOVE UP AND LEFT
C
JR=IR+1
IF (JR.GT.23) JR=1
JC=IC
BOX FULL - DROP DOWN
C
200 IR=JR
IC=JC
SET INDICES
GO TO 100
C
C
PRINT MAGIC SQUARE
C
900 DO 920 IR=1,23,1
920 WRITE (6,1000) (MAGIC(IR,IC), IC=1,23,1)
STOP
C
1000 FORMAT(23I4)
END

```


TEST PROGRAM 3

```

C
C
C
INTEGER C, CO, PI, PO
INTEGER INPUT(8), OUTPUT(8), DIGIT(10)
DATA OUTPUT /8*1H /
DATA DIGIT /1H0, 1H1, 1H2, 1H3, 1H4, 1H5, 1H6, 1H7, 1H8, 1H9/
INTEGER GETCH
LOGICAL NUMERIC
NUMERIC(I)=I.GE.1H0 .AND. I.LE.1H9

```

```

C
1000 READ (5,1000) INPUT
1000 FORMAT(8A10)
2000 WRITE (6,2000) INPUT
2000 FORMAT(#0INPUT IS *,8A10)

```

```

GET INPUT
INITIALIZE TO 1ST CHAR

```

```

C
PI=1
PO=1
CO=GETCH(INPUT,PI)
PI=PI+1

```

```

BEGIN COUNTING REPEATS

```

```

C
100 KOUNT=1
200 C=GETCH(INPUT,PI)
PI=PI+1

```

```

IGNORE BLANKS

```

```

C
IF (C.EQ.1H ) GO TO 200
IF (C.NE.CO) GO TO 300
KOUNT=KOUNT+1
GO TO 200

```

```

OUTPUT KOUNT-1 IF GT 1
OR IF CO IS NUMERIC

```

```

C
300 IF (KOUNT.EQ.1 .AND. .NOT.NUMERIC(CO)) GO TO 400
CALL PUTCH (DIGIT(KOUNT), OUTPUT, PO)
PO=PO+1

```

```

OUTPUT THE CHAR

```

```

C
400 CALL PUTCH (CO, OUTPUT, PO)
PO=PO+1
CO=C

```

```

. ENDS INPUT AND OUTPUT

```

```

C
IF (CO.NE.1H.) GO TO 100
CALL PUTCH (CO, OUTPUT, PO)
WRITE (6,3000) OUTPUT
3000 FORMAT(#0OUTPUT IS *,8A10)
STOP
END

```

```

C
C
C
THE ROUTINES GETCH AND PUTCH WERE NOT WRITTEN AS PART OF THIS
EXPERIMENT.

```

```

INTEGER FUNCTION GETCH(IWORD, IPOS)

```

```

C
C
C
C
C
C
C
THE FUNCTION GETCH RETURNS A 6 BIT CHARACTER FROM A CHARACTER
STRING OF POSSIBLY SEVERAL WORDS IN LENGTH. THE VALUE RETURNED
IS LEFT JUSTIFIED, BLANK FILLED. CHARACTERS ARE NUMBERED LEFT
TO RIGHT, 1, 2, ... .

```

```

AUTHOR: KEVIN KOLIS (23 JAN 75)

```

```

DIMENSION IWORD(1)

```

```

ISUB=(IPOS-1)/10+1
GETCH=OR(AND(SHIFT(IWORD(ISUB)+IPOS*6+54-1SUB*60),
77000000000000000000B),00555555555555555555B)
RETURN
END

```

SUBROUTINE PUTCH (CHAR, STRING, POS)

SUBROUTINE PUTCH PLACES A GIVEN CHARACTER INTO A STRING AT THE SPECIFIED POSITION. CHARACTERS ARE NUMBERED LEFT TO RIGHT. 1. 2.

AUTHOR: RONALD GORDON (24 JAN 75)

INTEGER CHAR, STRING(1), POS

```

IW=(POS-1)/10+1
IC=(1-POS+IW*10)*6
M=SHIFT(00 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77 77B, IC)
STRING(IW)=OR( AND(STRING(IW),M), AND(SHIFT(CHAR,IC),COMPL(M)) )
RETURN

```

END

*EOR
ABB BEE EEE E44 444 66F 9ZY W22 220 0PQ 999 999 999 R.

C
C
C
C
C
C
C

C

TEST PROGRAM 4

```

C
C
C
    INTEGER PICK, CARD
    LOGICAL DEBUG
    INTEGER POP
    INTEGER DECK(52)
    INTEGER KOUNT(53)
    DATA KOUNT /53*0/
    INTEGER PILE(13,5)
    COMMON PILE

C
    DEBUG=.TRUE.
    PC=RANF(13.0)
                                SETUP

C
    K=1
    DO 100 I=1,4,1
    DO 100 J=1,13,1
    DECK(K)=I*100 + J
    100 K=K+1
                                CONSTRUCT CARD DECK

C
    DO 900 N=1,500,1
                                SIMULATE 500 GAMES

C
    DO 150 I=1,13,1
                                SET UP PILE POINTERS
    150 PILE(I,1)=1

C
    CALL SHUFFLE (DECK,52)
                                SHUFFLE THE DECK

C
    K=1
    DO 200 I=1,4,1
    DO 200 J=1,13,1
    CALL PUSH (DECK(K),J)
    200 K=K+1
                                DEAL THE CARDS INTO 13 PILES

    1000 IF (DEBUG) WRITE (6,1000) PILE
    1000 FORMAT(*1#,5(/,1X,13I5),/)

C
                                PLAY THE GAME OF CLOCK
    L=53
    PICK=1
    300 CARD=POP(PICK)
    IF (CARD.EQ.0) GO TO 400
    L=L-1
    IF (DEBUG) WRITE (6,2000) CARD, PICK
    2000 FORMAT(I4,*, PICKED FROM#,I3)
    PICK=MOD(CARD,100)
    GO TO 300

C
                                GAME OVER
    400 KOUNT(L)=KOUNT(L)+1
    K=L-1
    L = NO OF CARDS NOT PLAYED + 1
    IF (DEBUG) WRITE (6,3000) K
    3000 FORMAT(/,I3,*, CARDS LEFT*)

    900 CONTINUE
                                IF (N.GT.5) DEBUG=.FALSE.

C
                                PRINT STATS
    WRITE (6,5000)
    DO 920 I=0,52,1
    PC=FLOAT(KOUNT(I+1))/500.0 * 100.0
    920 WRITE (6,4000) I, KOUNT(I+1), PC
    4000 FORMAT(I7,I12,F11.2)
    5000 FORMAT(*1CARDS LEFT   N TIMES   PERCENT*)

```

```

STOP
END
SUBROUTINE PUSH (ITEM, PICK)
INTEGER PICK
INTEGER PILE(13,5)
COMMON PILE
PILE(PICK,1)=PILE(PICK,1)+1
PILE(PICK, PILE(PICK,1) ) = ITEM
RETURN
END
INTEGER FUNCTION POP (PICK)
INTEGER PICK
INTEGER PILE(13,5)
COMMON PILE
IF (PILE(PICK,1).EQ.1) GO TO 100
POP=PILE(PICK, PILE(PICK,1) )
PILE(PICK,1)=PILE(PICK,1)-1
RETURN

```

```

C
100 POP=0          STACK EMPTY
RETURN
END

```

```

C
C
C SUBROUTINE SHUFFLE HAS NOT WRITTEN AS PART OF THIS EXPERIMENT.

```

```

SUBROUTINE SHUFFLE (LIST, N)
DIMENSION LIST(N)

```

```

C
C
C THIS ROUTINE WILL RANDOMLY SHUFFLE A LIST OF ITEMS.

```

```

REF: KNUTH, VOL. 2, P. 125, ALGORITHM P.

```

```

C
C
C
C
J=N
100 U=RANF(0.0)
K=FLOAT(J)*U+1.0
KEEP=LIST(K)
LIST(K)=LIST(J)
LIST(J)=KEEP
J=J-1
IF (J.GT.1) GO TO 100
RETURN
END

```

TEST PROGRAM 5

```

C
C
C
DIMENSION MAN(100)
DIMENSION KILL(100)
READ, N, M

C
DO 110 I=1,N-1
110 MAN(I)=I+1
MAN(N)=1
CREATE CIRCULAR LIST

C
L2=N
DO 200 K=1,N-1
KILL N-1 MEN

C
DO 150 L=1,M
L1=L2
COUNT M MEN
150 L2=MAN(L2)

C
KILL(L2)=K
200 MAN(L1)=MAN(L2)
KILL CURRENT MAN

C
KILL(L1)=N
KILL LAST MAN
WRITE (6,1000) (KILL(I), I=1,N,1)
1000 FORMAT(40I3)
STOP
END

*EOR
8, 4

```

TEST PROGRAM 6

THE MAIN PROGRAM WAS NOT WRITTEN AS PART OF THIS EXPERIMENT.

```

DIMENSION MATRIX (9,8)
READ (5,1000) MATRIX
WRITE (6,1001) MATRIX
CALL SADDLE (MATRIX, I, J)
PRINT, I, J
STOP

```

```

1000 FORMAT(9(I1,1X))
1001 FORMAT(9I2)
END

```

```

SUBROUTINE SADDLE (MAT, I, J)
DIMENSION MAT(9,8)
DIMENSION KEEP1(9), KEEP2(8)

```

COMPUTE MIN = ROW

```

DO 160 IR=1,9,1
MIN=MAT(IR,1)
DO 150 IC=2,8,1
IF (MIN.GT.MAT(IR,IC)) MIN=MAT(IR,IC)
150 CONTINUE
160 KEEP1(IR)=MIN

```

COMPUTE MAX = COL

```

DO 260 IC=1,8,1
MAX=MAT(1,IC)
DO 250 IR=2,9,1
IF (MAX.LT.MAT(IR,IC)) MAX=MAT(IR,IC)
250 CONTINUE
260 KEEP2(IC)=MAX

```

LOOK FOR MATCH

```

DO 370 I=1,9,1
DO 370 J=1,8,1
IF (KEEP1(I).EQ.KEEP2(J)) RETURN
370 CONTINUE
I=0
J=0
RETURN
END

```

*EOR

```

1 4 2 2 4 3 0 1 1
2 4 6 1 5 5 2 2 2
2 5 6 9 6 4 0 3 2
3 5 6 7 7 3 3 4 3
3 5 6 5 8 2 0 5 5
3 5 1 1 9 1 4 6 5
4 5 9 2 8 0 0 7 5
4 6 5 3 7 1 5 8 6

```

TEST PROGRAM 7

```
C
C
C      INTEGER SUMDIV
C
C      SEARCH FOR SOME FRIENDLY NUMBERS
C
C      DO 100 N=1000,1500,1
C      M=SUMDIV(N)
C      IF (SUMDIV(M).NE.N) GO TO 100
C      WRITE (6,1000) N, M
100  CONTINUE
C      STOP
1000 FORMAT(I5,*, AND*, I5,*, ARE FRIENDLY.*)
C      END
```

```
C
C
C      INTEGER FUNCTION SUMDIV(N)
C
C      CALCULATE SUM OF DIVISORS OF N
C
C      SUMDIV=1
C      DO 100 I=2,N-1,1
C      IF (N/I*I.NE.N) GO TO 100
C      SUMDIV=SUMDIV+I
100  CONTINUE
C      RETURN
C      END
```

```

C
C
C
LOGICAL PRIME
COMMON LIST(100)

LIST(1)=2
LIST(2)=3
N=3
DO 110 I=3,100,1
100 N=N+1
IF (.NOT. PRIME(N)) GO TO 100
110 LIST(I)=N

WRITE (6,1000) LIST
N=1
DO 500 L=1,8
250 DO 300 I=0,L-1,1
IF (.NOT. PRIME(N+I)) GO TO 300
N=N+I+1
GO TO 250
300 CONTINUE
WRITE (6,2000) L, N
500 CONTINUE
STOP

C
1000 FORMAT(1X,20I6)
2000 FORMAT(=SEQUENCE OF#,I2,= BEGINS AT#,I4)
END

LOGICAL FUNCTION PRIME (N)
COMMON LIST(100)

PRIME=.TRUE.
LIM=SQRT( FLOAT(N) ) + 0.5
DO 100 I=1,100,1
IF (LIST(I).GT.LIM) RETURN
IF (N/LIST(I)*LIST(I).NE.N) GO TO 100
PRIME=.FALSE.
RETURN
100 CONTINUE
STOP 1
END

```

GET 100 PRIMES

DEBUG PRINTOUT

FIND COMPOUND NUMBERS

TEST PROGRAM 9

C
C
C

```

INTEGER GT
INTEGER WAIT, TOTAL
LOGICAL DEBUG
DO 100 GT=10,90,10
TOTAL=0
DEBUG=.TRUE.
DO 110 I=1,3,1
CALL SIMUL (GT, WAIT, DEBUG)
TOTAL=TOTAL+WAIT
WRITE (6,1000) GT, WAIT
DEBUG=.FALSE.
110 CONTINUE
AVG=FLOAT(TOTAL)/3.0
WRITE (6,2000) AVG
100 CONTINUE
STOP
1000 FORMAT(I3, ' SECOND GREEN LIGHT.  WAIT =',I6)
2000 FORMAT(' AVERAGE WAIT =',F7.1,/)
END

```

```

SUBROUTINE SIMUL (GT, WAIT, DEBUG)
INTEGER TIME, Q1, Q2, WAIT1, WAIT2, GT, RANDOM
LOGICAL DEBUG
INTEGER WAIT
INTEGER ON, OFF

```

C

```

Q1=0
Q2=0
WAIT1=0
WAIT2=0
TIME=0
LIGHT=1
ON=0
OFF=0
IF (DEBUG) WRITE (6,3000) GT

```

C

```

100 Q1=Q1+RANDOM(5,15) ADD TO QUEUES

```

```

Q2=Q2+RANDOM(6,24)

```

```

IF (DEBUG) WRITE (6,2000) TIME, LIGHT, Q1, WAIT1, Q2, WAIT2
REMOVE FROM QUEUES IF GREEN

```

C

```

IF (LIGHT.EQ.1) GO TO 200

```

```

Q2=Q2-MIN0(Q2,20)

```

```

GO TO 250

```

```

200 Q1=Q1-MIN0(Q1,36)

```

C

```

250 CONTINUE ACCUMULATE WAITING TIME

```

```

WAIT1=WAIT1+Q1*10

```

```

WAIT2=WAIT2+Q2*10

```

```

IF (DEBUG) WRITE (6,2000) TIME, LIGHT, Q1, WAIT1, Q2, WAIT2
CHANGE LIGHT

```

C

```

TIME=TIME+10

```

```

IF (LIGHT.EQ.0) GO TO 300

```

```

ON=ON+10

```

```

IF (ON.EQ.GT) LIGHT=0

```

```

GO TO 400

```

```

300 OFF=OFF+10

```

```

IF (OFF+ON.NE.100) GO TO 400

```

```

LIGHT=1
ON=0
OFF=0

```

```

C
400 IF (TIME.LT.300) GO TO 100      5 MINUTS UP YET...
   IF (DEBUG) WRITE (6,1000) Q1, WAIT1, Q2, WAIT2
   WAIT=WAIT1+WAIT2
   RETURN

```

```

C
1000 FORMAT(10CARS LEFT IN Q1 =#,I3,# WAITING TIME =#,I5,/,
+          # CARS LEFT IN Q2 =#,I3,# WAITING TIME =#,I5)
2000 FORMAT(6I10)
3000 FORMAT(1SIMULATION OF#,I3,# SECOND GREEN LIGHT#,//
+          # TIME LIGHT Q1 WAIT1 Q2 WAIT2#)
END

```

```

INTEGER FUNCTION RANDOM (I, J)
X=J-I
RANDOM=X*RANF(0.0)
RANDOM=RANDOM+I
RETURN
END

```

TEST PROGRAM 10

```

C
C
C
DO 100 I=1,2,1
WRITE (6,1000)
CALL SIMUL (250)
100 CONTINUE
STOP
1000 FORMAT(=1BEGIN SIMULATION=)
END

```

```

SUBROUTINE SIMUL (LIMIT)

```

```

PERFORM SIMULATION WITH LIMIT PEOPLE

```

```

INTEGER TIME, RANDOM, CO, WAIT, TOTAL
INTEGER Q(3,600), QL(3)
COMMON Q

```

```

INITIALIZE

```

```

DO 100 I=1,3
100 QL(I)=0
KOUNT=0
TIME=0
TOTAL=0
NA=0

```

```

CREATE NEW ARIVAL

```

```

175 IF (TIME.NE.NA) GO TO 200
KOUNT=KOUNT+1

```

```

FIND SHORTEST LINE

```

```

MIN=1
IF (QL(MIN).GT.QL(2)) MIN=2
IF (QL(MIN).GT.QL(3)) MIN=3
CO=RANDOM(100,360)
QL(MIN)=QL(MIN)+1
Q(MIN,QL(MIN))=KOUNT*100000000 + CO
NA=TIME+RANDOM(0,160)
IF (KOUNT.EQ.LIMIT) NA=-1
WRITE (6,1000) TIME, KOUNT, MIN, CO, QL(MIN), NA
GO TO 175

```

```

SERVICE QUEUES

```

```

200 TIME=TIME+1
DO 250 I=1,3,1
IF (QL(I).EQ.0) GO TO 250

```

```

ADD WAIT TIME

```

```

DO 210 J=1,QL(I),1
210 Q(I,J)=Q(I,J)+1000

```

```

PROCESS CHECKOUT TIME

```

```

MAN=Q(I,1)/100000000
WAIT=(Q(I,1)-MAN*100000000)/1000
CO=MOD(Q(I,1),1000) - 1
Q(I,1)=MAN*100000000 + WAIT*1000 + CO
IF (CO.GT.0) GO TO 250

```

```

REMOVE FROM Q

```

```

QL(I)=QL(I)-1
DO 220 J=1,QL(I),1
220 Q(I,J)=Q(I,J+1)
WRITE (6,3000) TIME, MAN, I, WAIT, QL(I)
CALL MAXWAIT (0, WAIT, MAN)
250 CALL LINELEN (0, I, QL(I))

```

```

IF (NA.GE.0) GO TO 175
IF (QL(1)+QL(2)+QL(3).GT.0) GO TO 175
CALL LINELEN (1, I, J)
CALL MAXWAIT (1, I, J)
RETURN
1000 FORMAT(* TIME=#,I5,* *ADD* MAN=#,I3,* Q=#,I1,* CHECKOUT=#,I3,
+ * Q LENGTH=#,I3,* NEXT ARIVAL=#,I5)
3000 FORMAT(* TIME=#,I5,* *REMOVE* MAN=#,I3,* Q=#,I1,* WAIT=#,I5,
+ * Q LENGTH=#,I3)
END

SUBROUTINE MAXWAIT (MODE, L, N)
C
C GATHERS STATS ON WAITING LINES
C
DIMENSION MAX(10), NUM(10)
INTEGER AVG, TOTAL
DATA MAX, NUM, TOTAL, KNT /22*0/
C
IF (MODE.NE.0) GO TO 200
TOTAL=TOTAL+N
KNT=KNT+1
DO 100 I=1,10,1
IF (MAX(I).GT.L) GO TO 100
MAX(I)=L
NUM(I)=N
RETURN
100 CONTINUE
RETURN
C
200 WRITE (6,1000)
DO 300 I=1,10,1
WRITE (6,2000) MAX(I), NUM(I)
MAX(I)=0
300 NUM(I)=0
AVG=FLOAT(TOTAL)/FLOAT(KNT)+0.5
WRITE (6,3000) AVG
TOTAL=0
KNT=0
RETURN
1000 FORMAT(*0LONGEST WAITS WERE:#)
2000 FORMAT(* WAIT=#,I5,* MAN=#,I3)
3000 FORMAT(* AVERAGE WAIT=#,I5)
END

SUBROUTINE LINELEN (MODE, Q, L)
C
C GATHERS LINE LENGTH STATS
C
INTEGER Q, AVG
INTEGER LEN(3), MAX(3), KNT(3)
DATA LEN, MAX, KNT /9*0/
C
IF (MODE.NE.0) GO TO 100
LEN(Q)=LEN(Q)+L
KNT(Q)=KNT(Q)+1
IF (MAX(Q).LT.L) MAX(Q)=L
RETURN
C
100 WRITE (6,2000)
DO 200 I=1,3,1

```

```
AVG=FLOAT(LEN(I))/FLOAT(KNT(I)) + 0.5  
WRITE (6,1000) I, MAX(I), AVG  
LEN(I)=0  
MAX(I)=0  
200 KNT(I)=0  
RETURN  
1000 FORMAT(= Q=,I1,= MAX=,I3,= AVERAGE=,I3)  
2000 FORMAT(=0LINE LENGTH STATISTICSI=)  
END
```

TEST PROGRAM 11

C
C
C

INTEGER SUMDIG3

C
C
C

THIS PROGRAM HUNTS FOR SOME NUMBERS SUCH THAT THE SUM OF
THE CUBES OF THE DIGITS OF THE NUMBER EQUALS THE NUMBER.

```
DO 100 I=2,500,1
IF (I.NE.SUMDIG3(I)) GO TO 100
WRITE (6,1000) I, I
100 CONTINUE
STOP
```

C

```
1000 FORMAT('#0THE SUM OF THE CUBES OF THE DIGITS OF#,I4,# EQUALS#,I4)
END
```

C
C
C

INTEGER FUNCTION SUMDIG3 (N)

COMPUTE THE SUM OF THE CUBES OF THE DIGITS OF N

```
INTEGER WORKER
SUMDIG3=0
WORKER=IABS(N)
100 IF (WORKER.EQ.0) RETURN
SUMDIG3=SUMDIG3 + MOD(WORKER,10) ** 3
WORKER=WORKER/10
GO TO 100
END
```

APPENDIX B
SOFTWARE PARAMETER DATA FOR PROGRAMS
G1 THROUGH G11.

G1.

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERATOR</u>	<u>f_{1,i}</u>		<u>i</u>	<u>OPERAND</u>	<u>f_{2,i}</u>
1.	EOL	18		1.	I	12
2.	=	15		2.	JR	8
3.	IF()	5		3.	JC	6
4.	,	4		4.	IR	6
5.	+	3		5.	N	5
6.	.EQ.	2		6.	23	5
7.	.LT.	2		7.	IC	4
8.	()	2		8.	MAGIC	2
9.	-	2		9.	2	1
10.	/	1		10.	529	1
11.	Go To 100	1		11.	0	1
12.	Go To 200	1				
13.	Go To 900	1				
14.	DO	1				
15.	.GT.	1				

$$n_2 = 11, \quad N_2 = 51$$

$$n_1 = 15, \quad N_1 = 59$$

G2.

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERATOR</u>	<u>f_{1,i}</u>	<u>i</u>	<u>OPERAND</u>	<u>f_{2,i}</u>
1.	,	45	1.	1	53
2.	EOL	36	2.	IR	17
3.	=	29	3.	IC	17
4.	()	29	4.	MAT	17
5.	+	23	5.	JR	11
6.	-	15	6.	JC	11
7.	.EQ.	11	7.	0	9
8.	DO	10	8.	J	8
9.	IF()	10	9.	MODE	8
10.	.NE.	5	10.	N	5
11.	.OR.	3	11.	5	5
12.	*	3	12.	1	5
13.	.AND.	3	13.	OUT	5
14.	Go To 370	3	14.	2	4
15.	.NOT.	1	15.	23	4
16.	/	1	16.	3	4
17.	Go To 200	1	17.	NT	3
18.	Go To 210	1	18.	25	2
19.	Go To 325	1	19.	10	2
20.	Go To 350	1	20.	NU	2
			21.	DIGIT	2
			22.	IH+	1
			23.	EDGE	1
			24.	WHITE	1

$$n_1 = 20, N_1 = 231$$

$$n_2 = 24, N_2 = 197$$

G3.

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERATOR</u>	<u>f_{1,i}</u>
1.	EOL	18
2.	=	11
3.	,	8
4.	+	5
5.	IF ()	4
6.	CALL PUTC ()	3
7.	GETCH ()	2
8.	.EQ.	2
9.	Go To 200	2
10.	.NE.	2
11.	()	2
12.	Go To 300	1
13.	.AND.	1
14.	.NOT.	1
15.	Go To 400	1
16.	Go To 100	1

$$\eta_1 = 16, N_1 = 64$$

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERAND</u>	<u>f_{2,i}</u>
1.	1	9
2.	P0	8
3.	P1	7
4.	C0	7
5.	KOUNT	5
6.	C	4
7.	OUTPUT	3
8.	INPUT	2
9.	1Hb	1
10.	NUMERIC	1
11.	DIGIT	1
12.	1H+	1

$$\eta_2 = 12, N_2 = 49$$

G4.

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERATOR</u>	<u>f_{1,i}</u>
1.	EOL	32
2.	,	27
3.	=	26
4.	()	15
5.	DO	7
6.	+	6
7.	-	3
8.	*	2
9.	IF()	2
10.	.EQ.	2
11.	RANF()	1
12.	CALL SHUFFLE()	1
13.	CALL PUSH()	1
14.	POP()	1
15.	Go To 400	1
16.	Go To 300	1
17.	FLOAT()	1
18.	/	1
19.	Go To 100	1

$$n_1 = 19, N_1 = 131$$

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERAND</u>	<u>f_{2,i}</u>
1.	I	33
2.	PICK	12
3.	PILE	10
4.	K	9
5.	I	7
6.	L	6
7.	13.0	4
8.	J	4
9.	DECK	3
10.	100	3
11.	CARD	3
12.	D	3
13.	KOUNT	3
14.	PC	2
15.	4	2
16.	500	2
17.	52	2
18.	POP	2
19.	N	1
20.	53	1
21.	ITEM	1

$$n_2 = 21, N_2 = 113$$

G5.

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERATOR</u>	<u>f_{1,i}</u>
1.	EOL	11
2.	=	11
3.	()	7
4.	DO	3
5.	,	3
6.	-	2
7.	+	1

$$n_1 = 7, \quad N_1 = \underline{\quad} 38$$

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERAND</u>	<u>f_{2,i}</u>
1.	I	7
2.	L2	6
3.	N	5
4.	MAN	5
5.	I	3
6.	L1	3
7.	K	2
8.	KILL	2
9.	L	1
10.	M	1

$$n_2 = 10, \quad N_2 = \underline{\quad} 35$$

G6.

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERATOR</u>	<u>f_{1,i}</u>
1.	,	18
2.	EOL	15
3.	=	14
4.	()	10
5.	DO	6
6.	IF()	3
7.	.GT.	1
8.	.LT.	1
9.	.EQ.	1

$$n_1 = 9, \quad N_1 = \underline{69}$$

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERAND</u>	<u>f_{2,i}</u>
1.	I	12
2.	IR	8
3.	IC	8
4.	MAT	6
5.	MIN	4
6.	MAX	4
7.	9	3
8.	8	3
9.	I	3
10.	J	3
11.	2	2
12.	KEEPR	2
13.	KEEPC	2
14.	0	2

$$n_2 = 14, \quad N_2 = \underline{62}$$

G7.

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERATOR</u>	<u>f_{1,i}</u>
1.	EOL	7
2.	=	5
3.	,	4
4.	DO	2
5.	SUMDIV()	2
6.	IF()	2
7.	.NE.	2
8.	Go To 100	2
9.	-	1
10.	/	1
11.	*	1
12.	+	1

$$n_1 = 12, N_1 = 30$$

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERAND</u>	<u>f_{2,i}</u>
1.	N	6
2.	1	4
3.	1	4
4.	SUMDIV	3
5.	1000	2
6.	M	2
7.	1500	1
8.	2	1

$$n_2 = 8, N_2 = 23$$

G8.

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERATOR</u>	<u>f_{1,i}</u>
1.	EOL	18
2.	=	14
3.	,	7
4.	()	6
5.	+	5
6.	DO	4
7.	IF()	4
8.	.NOT.	2
9.	PRIME	2
10.	Go To 100	2
11.	-	1
12.	Go To 300	1
13.	Go To 250	1
14.	SQRT()	1
15.	FLOAT()	1
16.	.GT.	1
17.	/	1
18.	*	1
19.	.NE.	1

$$n_1 = 19, N_1 = 73$$

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERAND</u>	<u>f_{2,i}</u>
1.	N	12
2.	1	10
3.	1	9
4.	LIST	6
5.	3	3
6.	2	2
7.	100	2
8.	L	2
9.	PRIME	2
10.	LIM	2
11.	8	1
12.	0	1
13.	.TRUE.	1
14.	0.5	1
15.	.FALSE.	1

$$n_2 = 15, N_2 = 55$$

G9.

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERATOR</u>	<u>f_{1,i}</u>	<u>i</u>	<u>OPERAND</u>	<u>f_{2,i}</u>
1.	EOL	38	1.	0	14
2.	=	32	2.	10	7
3.	,	11	3.	Q1	7
4.	+	11	4.	Q2	7
5.	IF()	5	5.	1	6
6.	.EQ.	3	6.	ON	6
7.	-	3	7.	LIGHT	5
8.	*	3	8.	OFF	5
9.	DO	2	9.	TOTAL	4
10.	RANDOM()	2	10.	WAIT 1	4
11.	MINO()	2	11.	WAIT 2	4
12.	Go To 400	2	12.	TIME	4
13.	CALL SIMULA()	1	13.	GT	3
14.	FLOAT()	1	14.	DEBUG	3
15.	/	1	15.	WAIT	3
16.	Go To 200	1	16.	RANDOM	3
17.	Go To 250	1	17.	1	2
18.	Go To 300	1	18.	3	2
19.	.NE.	1	19.	X	2
20.	.LT.	1	20.	90	1
21.	Go To 100	1	21.	.TRUE.	1
22.	RANF()	1	22.	.FALSE.	1
			23.	AVG	1
			24.	5	1
			25.	15	1
			26.	6	1
			27.	24	1
			28.	20	1
			29.	36	1
			30.	100	1
			31.	300	1
			32.	J	1

$$n_1 = 22, N_1 = \underline{124}$$

$$n_1 = 32, N_2 = \underline{104}$$

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERATOR</u>	<u>f_{1,i}</u>
1.	EOL	59
2.	=	45
3.	()	43
4.	,	33
5.	+	17
6.	IF()	12
7.	DO	7
8.	.GT.	5
9.	*	4
10.	-	4
11.	/	4
12.	FLOAT()	4
13.	.NE.	3
14.	Go To 175	3
15.	Go To 200	2
16.	RANDOM()	2
17.	.EQ.	2
18.	Go To 250	2
19.	CALL MAXWAIT()	2
20.	CALL LINELEN()	2
21.	Go To 100	2
22.	CALL SIMULA()	1
23.	MOD()	1
24.	.GE.	1
25.	.LT.	1

$$n_1 = 25, N_1 = \underline{261}$$

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERAND</u>	<u>f_{2,i}</u>
1.	1	33
2.	1	30
3.	0	21
4.	QL	17
5.	Q	15
6.	MIN	9
7.	KNT	8
8.	J	8
9.	3	6
10.	MAX	6
11.	NA	5
12.	KOUNT	5
13.	TIME	5
14.	TOTAL	5
15.	CO	5
16.	L	5
17.	2	4
18.	1000	4
19.	MAN	4
20.	LEN	4
21.	WAIT	3
22.	10 ⁸	2
23.	10 ⁷	2
24.	MODE	2
25.	N	2
26.	NUM	2
27.	AVG	2
28.	0.5	2
29.	250	1
30.	100	1
31.	360	1
32.	160	1
33.	LIMIT	1
34.	10	1

$$n_2 = 34, N_2 = \underline{222}$$

G11.

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERATOR</u>	<u>f_{1,i}</u>
1.	EOL	8
2.	=	5
3.	,	3
4.	IF()	2
5.	Go To 100	2
6.	DO	1
7.	.NE.	1
8.	()	1
9.	IABS()	1
10.	.EQ.	1
11.	+	1
12.	MOD()	1
13.	**	1
14.	/	1

$$n_1 = 14, N_1 = 29$$

<u>i</u>	<u>OPERAND</u>	<u>f_{2,i}</u>
1.	WORKER	5
2.	SUMDIG3	4
3.	1	3
4.	0	2
5.	10	2
6.	2	1
7.	500	1
8.	1	1
9.	N	1
10.	3	1

$$n_2 = 10, N_2 = 21$$

An experiment comparing Fortran programming times with the software physics hypothesis

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ABSTRACT

Recent discoveries in the area of Algorithm Structure or Software Physics¹⁻²⁵ have produced a number of hypotheses. One of these relates the number of elementary mental discriminations required to implement an algorithm to measurable properties of that algorithm, and the results of one set of experiments confirming this relationship have been published.¹⁶ That publication, while significant, made no claim to finality, suggesting instead that further experiments were warranted. This paper will present the results of a second set of experiments, having the advantages of being conducted in a single implementation language, Fortran, from problem specifications readily available in computer textbooks.

The first section of this paper presents the timing hypothesis, and the elementary equations upon which it rests. The second section presents the details of the experiment and the results which were obtained, and the third section contains an analysis of the data.

TIMING HYPOTHESIS

Measurable properties of any implementation of any algorithm include:

- η_1 = The count of distinct operators
- η_2 = The count of distinct operands
(variables or constants)
- N_1 = Total uses of operators
- N_2 = Total uses of operands

The vocabulary, η , is given by:

$$\eta = \eta_1 + \eta_2 \quad (1)$$

and the length, N , is:

$$N = N_1 + N_2 \quad (2)$$

From these properties, it is possible to obtain the volume, V , in bits, as:

$$V = N \log_2 \eta \quad (3)$$

and the implementation level, L , where $L \leq 1$, as:

$$L = \frac{\eta_1}{\eta} \cdot \frac{\eta_2}{N_2} \quad (4)$$

where η_1^* , the minimum possible number of operators, will equal 2 for most algorithms. (One for the name of a function, plus one for a grouping symbol operator). It has been shown⁴ that the product $L \times V$ is invariant under translation from one language to another, and that for programs without impurities:^{16,4,5}

$$N = \eta_1 \log_2 \eta_1 + \eta_2 \log_2 \eta_2 \quad (5)$$

From this point, the following nine steps yield the timing equation:

1. A program consists of N selections from η elements.
2. A binary search of η elements requires $\log_2 \eta$ comparisons.
3. A program is generated by making $N \log_2 \eta$ comparisons.
4. Therefore, the volume, V , is a count of the number of comparisons required.
5. The number of elementary mental discriminations required to complete one comparison measures the difficulty of the task.
6. The level, L , is the reciprocal of the difficulty.
7. Therefore, E , the count of elementary mental discriminations required to generate a program, is given by:

$$E = \frac{V}{L} \quad (6)$$

8. S , the speed with which the brain makes elementary mental discriminations can be obtained from psychology²⁶ as:

$$5 \leq S \leq 20 \text{ discriminations per second.}$$

9. Therefore, the time to generate a *preconceived* program, by a *concentrating* programmer, *fluent* in a language, is:

$$\hat{T} = \frac{V}{SL} \quad (7)$$

Equation 7 may be expressed in more basic terms by substituting for V from equation 3, and for L from equation 4, with $\eta_1^* = 2$, giving:

$$\hat{T} = \frac{\eta_1 N_2 N \log_2 \eta}{2 S \eta_2} \quad (8)$$

The effect of possible impurities⁹ may be eliminated from equation 8 by substituting for N from equation 5. Letting $S=60 \times 18=1080$ will then give, for time in minutes:

$$\hat{T} = \frac{\eta_1 N_2 (\eta_1 \log_2 \eta_1 + \eta_2 \log_2 \eta_2) \log_2 7}{2160 \eta_2} \quad (9)$$

Each of the variables on the right hand side of equation 9 can be readily measured (or counted) in any computer program, and the experiment described in the next section was designed to compare results from that equation with observed programming times.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

Eleven problems were arbitrarily selected from two published sources. In selecting candidates for the experiment, problems were sought which were stated in a non-procedural form. Further, the problem statement had to be complete. That is, in the course of solving a particular problem, specific laws of physics, mathematics, etc. would not have to be derived. The problems finally selected were taken from Knuth,²⁷ and from Maurer and Williams,²⁸ and cover a wide range of topics including character manipulation, list processing, simulation experiments and mathematical analysis. The source of each problem statement is cited in Table I.

On each of eleven days, one of these problems was implemented by the senior author. In order to maintain a consistent level of performance all work was conducted in a quiet room, free from distractions, during the same period of the day. The time required to fully implement the problem was obtained. This total time included the number of minutes spent reading the statement of the problem, preparing flowcharts and writing preliminary versions of the code, writing the final version of the code, desk checking, and the time spent working to correct errors in the program. Time to keypunch was not included.

TABLE I—Experimental Data

Program Specifications				Software Parameters				Implemen- tation
No.	Ref.*	Page	Problem	η_1	η_2	N_1	N_2	Time- Minutes
G1	K	158	21	16	11	59	61	19
G2	K	159	23	20	24	231	187	92
G3	K	196	7	16	12	64	49	16
G4	K	377	17	19	21	131	113	39
G5	K	158	22	7	10	38	35	21
G6	K	154	10	9	14	69	62	30
G7	M	32	3.2.21	12	8	30	23	5
G8	M	32	3.2.23	19	15	73	55	24
G9	M	88	8.3.2	22	32	124	104	43
G10	M	89	8.3.4	25	34	261	222	91
G11	M	27	3.2.4	14	10	20	21	5

* K=Knuth²⁷, M=Maurer and Williams.²⁸

For a number of reasons, including availability and fluency, all of the algorithms were implemented in Fortran. In the course of solving a problem the correctness of the implementation was checked by executing a sufficiently complex test case for which a correct answer was known. In some cases the solution to a problem was written as a subroutine and testing required that a main routine be written. In such a case only the preparation of the subroutine was considered for the experiment. In addition, several implementations made use of subroutines previously written. Such routines were also not included.*

After each program was completed, a careful count was made to determine values of η_1 , η_2 , N_1 , and N_2 . In obtaining these values all read, write, declarative statements and comments were ignored. The results are shown in Table I.

ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

The programming time predicted by theory was obtained for each program by applying equation 9 to the data in Table I. This result, T , can be compared with the observed value, T , in Table II. In addition, a count of the number of statements in each program was obtained, and the programs were ordered according to these values.

The average of the calculated values, 34 minutes, is fortuitously close to the observed value, 35 minutes. The coefficient of correlation is 0.934, only slightly smaller than the value of 0.952 reported in an earlier experiment.¹⁶ In further agreement with that experiment, the correlation between length and observed times, 0.887, is lower than between observed and calculated times.

In conclusion, it may again be observed that one more set of experimental data does not contradict the simple hypothesis. As a result, further carefully controlled experiments by others would appear to be warranted.

* Additional details available from the author.

TABLE II—Experimental Results

Program Number	Statement Count	Programming Time—Minutes	
		T observed	T Equ. 9
G7	7	5	4.6
G11	8	5	5.4
G5	11	21	2.5
G6	15	30	6.8
G3	18	16	15.6
G1	18	19	14.6
G8	18	24	22.9
G4	32	39	43.6
G2	36	62	81.5
G9	38	43	49.2
G10	50	91	128.5
Means		35.0	34.1

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